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Pope turns on liberal Catholics

Madeline Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE Pope has taken a dramatic step to quell liberal dissent in the church with an edict which insists on obedience to Catholic teaching on morally contested issues such as women priests and euthanasia, with "just punishment" for those who fail to obey.

The document defines a category of obligatory teachings which all practising Catholics must remain "in full communion" with the church.

The teachings, which in-

clude banning prostitution and sex outside marriage, are to be regarded as inflexible.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said in an explanatory note: "Every believer is required to give firm and definitive assent to these truths."

Whoever denied them "would no longer be in full communion with the Catholic Church."

The apostolic letter was published under the Pope's personal authority in Italian and Latin on Tuesday, and was particularly addressed to all who teach the Catholic faith — theologians, clerics

and laity. Punishment would range from warnings to excommunication, said Cardinal Ratzinger.

Many Catholics were struggling to understand the significance of the abstract and highly technical language yesterday.

The document was being seized upon as evidence of an ageing pontiff's increasingly authoritarian efforts to combat liberal dissent, particularly in Europe and North America.

The hugely successful reform movement, We Are the Church, gathered 2.3 million signatures across Europe in support of issues such as women priests, married

priests and more democracy in the church.

Only last month, the Pope's visit to Austria, where the movement began, was marred by low turn-out and media criticism.

"This document is clarification of Catholic teaching. It is called 'To Defend Faith'. It is a reactive text to recent debate. It is saying you shouldn't even be talking about these issues," said a spokesman for the Catholic Church's Media Office in England.

Liberal Catholics are concerned that the Pope, plagued by ill-health, is doing all he can to bequeath to his successor a theological straitjacket

which will handicap any attempts to undertake reform on key issues such as celibacy or women priests.

"There is a lamentable mindset in the Vatican at the moment. It's a dreadful period," said John Wilkins, editor of the Catholic weekly, The Tablet. "He has become an old man; his attention span has dropped off. He can't listen and follow an argument through."

"There's been tremendous centralisation of the Catholic church this century, and this Papacy has been an extension of that." But Mr Wilkins believes that the document will only undermine the credibility of the Papacy as Catholics

simply ignore it: "There comes a stage where you can't legislate, people just don't follow you."

Lola Winkley of the Catholic Women's Network, which campaigns for women's ordination, was horrified: "My Catholicism is painted on the inside of my skin. How can the Pope tell me I'm not a Catholic? I'm deeply concerned about the future of the church."

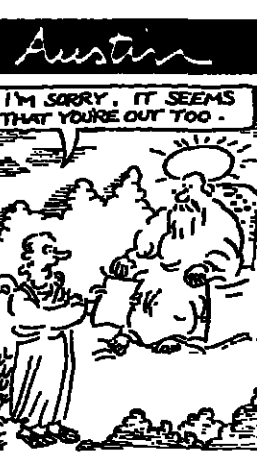
What will particularly alarm theologians and bishops is that the document hugely expands the controversial doctrine of infallibility to any teachings relating to faith and morals.

The document also repre-

sents a sharp rebuke to the growing trend of *à la carte* Catholicism in Europe and North America whereby church members simply ignore papal teaching on controversial issues, most notably contraception.

The Pope's criticism of such a stance has become increasingly severe in recent years as he tries to shore up faith against what he perceives as the twin evils of secularism or materialism.

"This is a slap in the face for the liberals. The Pope is very clear cut and it might bring about a bit of cohesion," said Greg Murphy, editor of the rightwing Catholic Times.



Unwed fathers get equal rights

Claire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

MEN who father children outside marriage are to be given the same parental rights as married fathers in a move designed to bring the law into line with social changes.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, has decided that unmarried fathers who jointly sign the birth register with the baby's mother — around 180,000 a year — should automatically acquire parental responsibility.

Under current law, married parents have equal parental rights but where parents are

rights if a child is born outside marriage. Even when an unmarried father supports a child financially he has no extra rights.

If the mother is absent, the father has no legal right to consent to medical treatment for the child. He has no right to object if the mother puts the child up for adoption or changes the child's surname, and cannot invoke international machinery to return abducted children to their home country.

At present, unmarried fathers can acquire rights only if the mother agrees to share them by entering into a parental responsibility agreement, or if a court makes a parental responsibility order. But only 5,000-7,000 such agreements are registered each year, and only 5,500 parental responsibility orders were made in 1996.

In the same year, 181,647 unmarried fathers jointly registered their babies' births with their partners. That represented 78 per cent of the 232,883 births outside wedlock. In three out of four cases where the birth was registered jointly, the parents were living together.

Once the new law comes into effect, future fathers who register births jointly with the babies' mothers would automatically have parental responsibility. But the law will not confer rights retrospectively on fathers who jointly registered births in the past.

The reform is one of a number of options for change canvassed in a consultation paper last March. Others included automatic parental responsibility for all unmarried fathers, or just for those living with the mother at the time of the birth.

An official said extending rights to those who signed the birth register with the mother was the option most favoured in responses to the consultation. "A few responses said it would undermine the status of marriage, but not a significant number."

Trevor Berry, president of the campaigning group Family Need Fathers, said: "It's good news, long overdue and very welcome."

Under current law, unmarried fathers have no right to object if the mother puts the child up for adoption

unmarried, the mother has the sole right to take decisions about the child's upbringing. The fact that a father's name appears on the birth certificate makes no difference.

The Lord Chancellor has decided to change the law to reflect the fact that marriage is no longer seen in society as a prerequisite for having children. More than one in three babies — 35.8 per cent in 1996 — are now born out of wedlock, the majority to parents who are in stable relationships.

The reform is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Modernisation of Justice Bill which Lord Irvine hopes to bring forward in the autumn, and could become law by next summer.

Evidence shows that the public is largely unaware that mothers have all parental



Tim Henman raises his arms in victory after beating Petr Korda at Wimbledon yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CAULVIN

Gloom deepens as jobs go

Mark Atkinson and
Michael White

THE Government tried to shrug off fears of recession yesterday as a key business survey showed hard-pressed factory owners sack workers at the fastest rate for more than five years.

But there will be concern among ministers that their popularity may come under pressure as public confidence in the economy's future diminishes.

A Times/Mori poll today shows that the number of those who think the general

economic situation will improve rather than worsen over the next 12 months has gone sharply into reverse.

In the past four weeks, in which interest rates have risen and a raft of data have pointed to a sharp slowdown, public confidence has swung from plus 1 per cent to minus 19 per cent, the gloomiest since September 1995.

So far, though, Labour is still managing to command a powerful lead over the Tories by a thumping 55 per cent to 27, with the Lib Dems on 13.

With demand hit by the strength of the pound and the Asian economic crisis, over-

all manufacturing activity shrank for the third month in a row in June, said the Chartered Institute for Purchasing and Supply (CIPS).

Official manufacturing output figures have already recorded two consecutive quarters of declining output to the end of March, satisfying the technical definition of recession. Analysts said the more up-to-date CIPS survey, seen in the City as a reliable guide to future official data, points to more gloom ahead.

"By any yardstick, today's survey makes grim reading," said David Coleman at securities house CIBC Wood Gundy Oppenheimer.

In the Commons, the Prime

Minister brushed aside Tory talk of a recession after being told that bankruptcies are 48 per cent up in eastern England, preferring to contrast the Chancellor's efforts to curb the budget deficit with the Lawson boom of the late 80s — which led to double digit inflation and 15 per cent interest rates.

"Those were the days of Tory boom and bust," said Mr Blair. "That was the legacy of the government you supported. We are not going back to those days. People remember them. They remember what the Conservative government did, they know what turn to page 2, column 7

Oh well, there's always the tennis

Sarah Hall

TIM Henman restored the wounded pride of a sporting nation yesterday as he became the first British man to reach this level of the tournament since three-time semi-finalist Roger Taylor lost to the Czech Jan Kodes in 1973.

After yesterday's match, Taylor, now 56, offered his congratulations. "I have known Tim since he was six and I'm delighted for him and his coach, because he's worked so hard," he said.

Henman, watched by his parents Jane and Tony, and his TV sports producer girlfriend, Lucy Heald, 25, said he had been anxious to go beyond the quarter-finals after reaching them for the third consecutive year.

Of tomorrow's battle against Sampras, who yesterday beat the unseeded Australian Mark Philippoussis 7-6, 6-4, 6-4, he said: "I know that it's going to be my toughest test so far. He's the best grass court player in the world. But with the way I'm playing, I definitely feel I've got a good chance."

The 23-year-old's win over this year's Australian Open champion brings him

a semi-final battle against Pete Sampras, the world No. 1 and defending champion, and marks him as the first British man to reach this level of the tournament since three-time semi-finalist Roger Taylor lost to the Czech Jan Kodes in 1973.

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The 23-year-old's win over this year's Australian Open champion brings him

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Blair is ready to hold talks

John Hume
Ireland Correspondent

TONY Blair was expected to fly to Northern Ireland today for talks with David Trimble, who last night became the province's first head of government in 25 years, despite desperate rearguard action by Unionists opposed to the Good Friday Agreement to block his appointment.

Mr Blair will also meet Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), who was elected Mr Trimble's deputy. The crisis over Sunday's Orange march at Drumcree is likely to top the agenda.

Mr Mallon emerged as deputy first minister after SDLP leader John Hume, one of the architects of the peace process, ruled himself out.

Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon were the primary negotiators who thrashed out the final details of the agreement which paved the way for yesterday's historic meeting at Castle Buildings, Stormont.

They shook hands warmly after they defeated the Democratic Unionist Party, UK Unionists and three unionist independents, in their attempts to vote down their positions at the head of the assembly. The anti-agreement Unionists mustered 27 votes, while Mr Trimble's 28 members were joined in the yes lobby by the two representatives of the Progressive Unionist Party.

Stuart Fein abstained. The SDLP's 24 members voted unanimously in favour of both men's appointments, delivering the necessary majorities in both the unionist and

nationalist communities. But the first meeting of the assembly was overshadowed by the continuing threat of rioting at Drumcree.

The Orangemen remain intent on marching down the nationalist Garvaghy Road despite the Parades Commission banning them from taking their traditional route back into Portadown, Co Armagh.

There is another threat. The loyalist protesters who clashed with Catholic massagers every Sunday for more than a year at Harryville in Ballymena, Co Antrim, said yesterday they would begin their picket again this week. The often violent demonstrations were called off two months ago.

At the assembly, Mr Trimble was put under pressure over the vexed issue of Sinn Féin's participation in the proposed power-sharing executive. The DUP and UK Unionists wanted a clear answer about whether he would sit with the party in government before the IRA began decommissioning its terrorist arsenal.

Mr Trimble effectively dodged the question as he spoke before the vote on his appointment was taken. He appeared to go further than he had previously done in holding out the prospect of Sinn Féin entering the executive, yet to be set up, but hinted that he needed some gesture from Gerry Adams's party to make it politically possible for him to do so.

Mr Trimble said: "There are a number of people in this room who have in the past done terrible things, and the people concerned are not just in one corner of the room. People have to accept responsibility for what they have done."



Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams listening to Ian Paisley during the first sitting of the assembly

PHOTOGRAPH: CRISPIN ROOMWELL

Queen's highwaymen stand but may fail to deliver

Sketch

Simon Hoggart

THEY couldn't even agree whether it was a historic day. Most party leaders thought that it was Mr Trimble who had grumpyly that the word was over-used.

He was asked about the Drumcree march this week-end, and said that his party would do all it could to defuse the dangerous situation. But the usual enormous but which accompanies most statements in Ulster — "we fully recognise the right of the Orange Order to walk down

the Queen's highway!" Unionists love phrases like "the Queen's highway".

Everywhere else we call it a street. What it means this week-end is: "We want peace, provided it's entirely on our terms." Ian Paisley roared that he was going "face to face with those who have killed our kin and kin. We are going in to raise the banner of the Union!"

He made the first pledge of the new assembly: there would be no "nice, cosy conversations" with Sinn Féin. "There will be no deals at the bar!" So it's not true that Mr Paisley's rhetoric is unchanged after 30 years. Yesterday he didn't demand to smell our breath. Lord Alderdice, the Alliance

member appointed presiding officer, welcomed everyone with a request to set their bleeper to "vibrate" mode. Bizarrely, he said that members could address the assembly in any language they chose, not only English and Irish, provided they made their own translation — good news for any passing Finnish parliamentarians.

Mr Paisley raised a point of order within the first 10 minutes. He asked about the innumerable small Unionist groupings. These are confusing, what with United Ulster Unionists, UK Unionists and Popular Unionists. The United Kingdom United Unpopular Ulster Unionists would be the UKUUUU. They

probably exist. "I have been informed that they have been informed about nothing," boomed the doctor, outraged. "Thank you for your contribution," said Lord Alderdice, primly. He is, I fear, no Betty Boothroyd, having the sing-song tones of the Ulster middle classes. Like a Speak Your Weight machine on the Malone Road, its very dullness may prove to be an asset as some members become hysterically ferocious. Then they signed into big leather-bound tomes, like the visitors' book in an upmarket B & B. "A warm welcome and a wonderful debate. We'll be back!"

Outside Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin and Ken Ma-

ginnis of the Unionists were having a blazing row, about McGuinness's membership of the IRA. Was it real, or for the nearby cameras? Possibly both. Many of these people had never met each other before, except over Twiglets in TV hospitality rooms.

Then the points of order began. Members were supposed to sign in as "Unionist", "nationalist" or "other", but the Women's Coalition called themselves "inclusive other". Was this in order? The assembly was shaping up to be a festival of fustian, a Glastonbury for nitpickers.

Next came a curiously moving moment. John Taylor, a Unionist who was machine-gunned by the IRA more than

a quarter-century ago, moved the name of his leader Mr Trimble as first minister, and Seamus Mallon of the SDLP as deputy. It was a short, generous speech, and both men looked affected by the implications as they accepted the nominations.

They resembled the couple in a wedding, mouthing formulae but essential phrases for the first time, hoping they will never need to use them again.

The debate spiralled down into rowdy abuse. But the real test of the assembly will come when it debates not Northern Ireland — Whither? but the Renovation of Traffic Bollards, (County Antrim) Amendment Order.

Blessed with alight touch

Review

Lyn Gardner

The Glass Menagerie
BAC, London

ACTOR, film star and mountaineer Brian Blessed is busy tracking down the yet in some remote high spot of the world, but in London his modest directorial debut uncovers rare depths to Tennessee Williams's guilt-ridden memory play.

The play, from 1944, draws heavily on the author's relationship with his sister Rose, the mentally unstable young woman who lived most of her life in a sanatorium after being lobotomised. Her ghostly presence haunts much of Williams's best work.

Here she is reincarnated as the painfully shy and physically crippled Laura, sister to the reluctant shoe warehouse-

man Tom, who dreams of becoming a poet. All that stands in his way is his love of Laura and the demands of his deluded mother Amanda, who believes that the fragile Laura, who has retreated into a fantasy world of tiny glass animals, can be successfully married off if only Tom can lure home a suitable gentleman.

But if the set is all clumsy surface, the performances frequently plunge into the subtext of a play in which the terrible desperation of the characters means that the tiny defections of everyday life become monumental betrayals.

Hildegard Neil's Amanda is a sympathetic monster, a woman so demanding and emotionally voracious that you can see why her telephone worker husband decamped to the furthest corner of the nation.

Mark Burgess is too old to play Tom, but gives an excellent impression of a man torn between duty and self-preservation.

US defence bill comes to \$19 trillion

Report reveals the staggering cost of victory in the cold war

Martin Kettle in Washington

IN THE decades since the United States began its nuclear arms race, the Washington government has spent \$5,800,000,000,000 (\$5.8 trillion) on nuclear arms and \$19 trillion on defence, a new study has calculated.

The study, published yesterday by the Brookings Institution, reports that the US has spent more on its nuclear weapons programmes than on any other single public spending programme with the exception of pensions (\$7.9 trillion) and non-nuclear defence (\$13.2 trillion). Federal spending on nuclear weapons has exceeded spending on welfare payments, state medical insurance, health and education, the report shows.

The sum spent on nuclear weapons is equivalent to 162 times annual spending on Brit-

ain's National Health Service. \$5.8 trillion would be enough to provide every household in Britain with a new, top-of-the-range Rolls-Royce.

The study shows that only 7 per cent of the cost of the US nuclear programme went on development and manufacture of warheads. Deployment, including bombers and missiles, and other infrastructure costs took up 86 per cent of spending. The rest was spent on clean-up programmes.

It also shows that US stock-

pile have been far larger than the public thought. When the then defence secretary, Robert McNamara, stated in 1964 that a nuclear force equivalent to 400 megatons would be enough to cause mutually assured destruction with the Soviet Union, the US stockpile already totalled 17,000 megatons.

Although the US and Russia now maintain smaller stockpiles, each still has 10,000 nuclear warheads. The costs of nuclear arms will continue "for the foreseeable future", the report argues.

The Brookings study underlines how the sheer scale of expenditure was central to the resolution of the cold war and supports a view held increasingly by historians that the US spent the USSR into defeat, especially during the Reagan presidency.

The study was not undertaken to see whether US nuclear expenditure was worth the money, said Stephen Schwartz, the chairman of the four-year research project. But it was intended to set the stage for an "honest and fully informed debate".

"The United States spent vast amounts on nuclear weapons without the careful and sustained debate or oversight that are essential both to democratic practice and to sound public policy," Mr Schwartz said. "In most cases, even rudimentary standards of government policymaking and accountability were lacking."

The Brookings president, Michael Armstrong, said that a central conclusion was that

"government officials made little effort to ensure that limited economic resources were used as efficiently as possible so that nuclear deterrence could be achieved at least cost to taxpayers".

"The near total absence of data documenting either annual or cumulative costs of the overall effort made effective democratic debate and oversight all but impossible," said Mr Armstrong.

Mr Schwartz, the development and deployment of nuclear weapons was frequently justified on the grounds that they were less expensive than conventional forces, when the reverse was true.

Had the facts been known, "there almost certainly would have been a debate about the wisdom," Mr Schwartz said. But Paul Warnke, head of the arms control and disarmament agency during the Jimmy Carter presidency, disagreed. "I don't think it would have made much difference. The people were scared of the Russian threat and would have spent whatever it took."

Decades of spending

US government historical obligations, Trillions of US

National defence	13.213
Social Security	7.956
Nuclear weapons & infrastructure	5.481
Income security	5.346
National debt (net interest)	4.722
Medicare	2.337
Veterans benefits & services	1.637
Health	1.700
Transportation	1.572
Education, training, employment	1.564
International affairs	1.235
Agriculture	0.971
National recreation & environment	0.846
General government	0.730
Space science, space & technology	0.590
Commerce & housing credit	0.557
Community & regional development	0.410
Administration of justice	0.340
Energy	0.318

Source: US Government

Althorp museum lays bare Diana's secrets to her grieving public

Rory Carroll

THE global yearning to eulogise a dead princess found its focus yesterday when a convoy of cars churned a muddy path to Althorp estate, the Northamptonshire ancestral home which once shielded her secrets but now displayed them, price \$9.50.

More than 2,500 ticket-holders marvelled at the minutiae of the private life of Diana, Princess of Wales, laid flowers at a Doric temple, posed in front of her island grave and left the souvenir shop clutching purple bags, every product stamped with Britain's newest brand — Althorp.

Earl Spencer, the estate's owner, stood in the centre of the converted 18th century stable block and greeted visitors, not flinching at their pointed cameras. Yesterday would have been his sister's 37th birthday.

Some predicted a Grace-land, a gaudy Elvis Presley-type rag-tag of memorabilia, but the design and tone was sombre, and intensely personal. Just right, said many.

Owned by the Spencers since the 16th century, the estate will remain open for two months. Another 150,000 people are expected. Around 4,000 tickets remain unsold.

Some exhibits brought people close to tears. A faded school report said the young Diana had "a defeatist attitude where her weaknesses are concerned... she must try to be less emotional in her dealings with others".

Diary entries on Friday, December 28, 1979 recorded her Christmas presents: Daddy — diamond brooch, Mum — tape recorder, Sarah — gold chain. Staff — chocolates.

A red leather hostess book records the menu at her first meeting, in 1975, with the Prince of Wales: Vol-au-vent with haddock and prawns, crispy chicken with cheese sauce, and chocolate mousse.

Nearby are Diana's tap shoes which she used to dance on the marble floor of the entrance hall. Few gaze long, because opposite runs a home movie of a twirling, smiling girl in shorts and singlet. Next, she's sitting in a toy car, trying and failing to look stern.

To protect them, all exhibits are dimly lit, so they look soft and from a bygone age.

A panel on the 1981 marriage reads like a fairy tale: "It was a beautiful summer day and the cathedral was filled with family, friends and dignitaries from all over the world."

Another room documents her charity work: letters from grateful recipients, one from Diana apologising for a lacklustre visit to a Barnardo's home, a prayer from Mother Theresa, a video of her handshake with a leprosy sufferer.

Invisible speakers breathe a Ravel string quartet while visitors savour the incidents. The dog-eared passport, number B24837, the itinerary for a 1993 Zimbabwe tour, the way those tap shoes crinkle at the toes.

Japanese strings play in the next room, the People's Tribute, the floor sprayed with rose petals. A BBC video relays the first week of September, 1997.

And then the outfit, on mannequin — 28, tracing her style evolution from late teens to the international culture of her middle-age.

"The museum was amaz-

ing, especially her wedding dress," said Janet Lawrie, a New Zealand farmer. "It was all done very tastefully. People were very quiet in there as if deep in thought. I know I had a tear in my eye."

Emerging beneath low clouds and the distant buzz of a police helicopter, visitors bought ice creams and strolled on gravel paths to the lake. "Don't think much of the island. Can't see anything," said Patricia Chater. "It's overgrown, weedy, like a jungle. If that was my garden I would've weeded it ages ago and planted some flowers."

A mustard-cloured Doric temple, originally a folly but now dedicated to Diana's memory, contained two plaques either side of a marble etching of the princess. One plaque contained a quotation from a speech Diana made in June last year, the other a quote from Earl Spencer's funeral oration.

A blue bench given in memory of Diana by estate employees was already disappearing under bouquets.

Business in the souvenir shop was brisk. Pre-empting accusations of tackiness, the

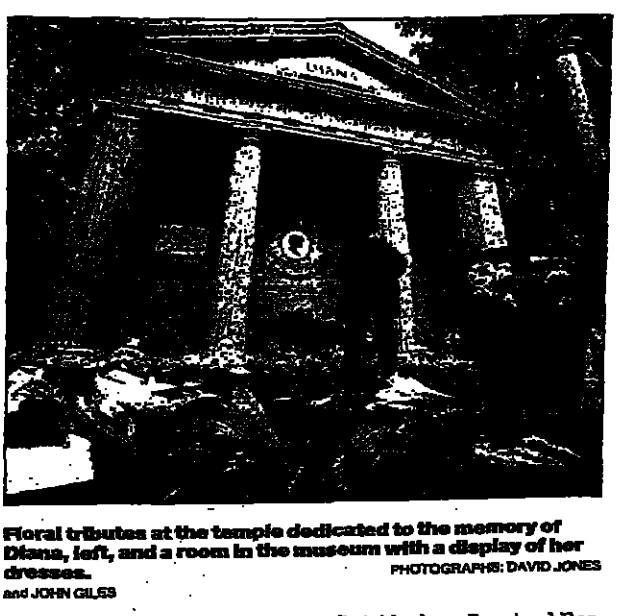


design was minimalist. A display cabinet on the right, a counter to order, slate grey space in between.

The earl's decision to put Althorp's name instead of his

sister's face or signature on the 37 products — to avoid cheapening her memory — disappointed some punters.

"It's bloody expensive, I can tell you that. I'm not paying



five quid for eight envelopes," a woman said. But others were delighted. "My glass tumblers are a fair price," said Alisha King, 28, from North Carolina.

Outside, happily, stood Ras-shab Dln, 40, who designed the \$3 million stable block conversion. "We've hit the right tone. It's revealing without delving."

Floral tributes at the temple dedicated to the memory of Diana, left, and a room in the museum with a display of her dresses. PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID JONES AND JOHN GILES

What now for David Beckham, the £8m a year glory boy who put one foot wrong?

Can he return like role model Cantona, asks Richard Williams

AS IT happens, David Beckham collects footballers' autographs, like any young fan.

When he joined the England squad, less than two years ago, Glenn Hoddle's signature was immediately added to his collection. A few weeks before the World Cup, he successfully cornered Pele.

He also collects shirts. At the end of England's victory over Colombia last week, he dashed over to Carlos Valderrama, the opposition's captain, and exchanged tops with a man playing his last match at end of a legendary international career.

Beckham is a hero-worshiper. And the man he worships most fervently, the man whose shirt and the autograph take pride of place in his collection, is Eric Cantona, his former Manchester United team mate.

"Eric was my role model," he said recently. "He's the best I've ever played with. A great guy. One day I'd like to be as charismatic as him."

In one respect, at least, Beckham has now matched Cantona's standing. His flick of a foot at Diego Simeone in St Etienne on Tuesday night may have lacked the theatrical element of Cantona's kung-fu kick on Matthew Simmons at Selhurst Park in 1994, but it has earned him similar notoriety.

Although Cantona's doom was widely forecast, he survived the ordeal once the facts of the case had been examined. Solid in his private life, strong in his idiosyncratic philosophy, silently con-

'Eric Cantona was my role model. He's the best I've ever played with. A great guy. One day I'd like to be as charismatic as him'

David Beckham

temptuous of his critics, the Frenchman returned from a long suspension to win more trophies with the club before slipping quietly into retirement last year, at the age of 30. Whether Beckham has the mental resources to cope with a similar public crucifixion is another matter.

It will probably be some time before one of his England colleagues breaks ranks to tell us what, if anything, was said to Beckham in the dressing room after the rest of the team had returned in defeat on Tuesday. Not much, probably.

His fellow professionals would recognise the misfortune inherent in a dismissal for a gesture far less offensive, however stupid, than many which went unpunished in the same game. They would know, though, that in such cases the referee can never be blamed for playing it by the book, and the book said Beckham had to go.

The England coach, however, has already infringed one of the unwritten rules of the game by suggesting that Beckham's exit probably cost his side the game. Alex Ferguson, Beckham's manager at Manchester United, would never have allowed himself to level such an accusation at one of his own players, however provoked.

Ferguson, who has guided Beckham through all the stages of his professional life, from apprentice to superstar, believes that internal criticism should be made behind closed doors. To do otherwise can only give comfort to the enemy — whether that be the opposing team or the media. The wisdom of his policy can

be judged by the intensity of the storm that broke over Beckham's head yesterday.

At 23, Beckham is the boy with everything. No current male pop singer enjoys the degree of popularity experienced by Beckham and Michael Owen, his 18-year-old England team mate. They are heroes and stars at once, blessed with natural talent, good looks, and pleasant manners, benefiting from the extraordinary increase in the popularity of their sport over the past decade.

"There are some mornings when I wake up and have to pinch myself to know that it's real," Beckham recently told Erik Bielderman of L'Equipe, the French sports paper, before the tournament began. He has a Porsche, a Jaguar coupé, and luxurious homes in Manchester, where he plays, and London, where he grew up.

He is engaged to be married next year to Victoria Adams, aka Posh Spice, with whom he exchanged rings costing as much as suburban family houses.

They appear to enjoy a mutually supportive romance: he says loyal things about the Spice Girls, being the best group in the world; she was in the grandstand to watch him take the field against Argentina. He likes nice cars, they both like clothes.

He is one of the few men in England who can be pictured with his girlfriend going for a holiday stroll while wearing a sarong, and not look stupid. As a couple, they filled the hole left by Charles and Diana and then by Liz and Hugh as the nation's temporary sweethearts — their idyllic celebration only in order, it seems, to be destroyed.

But this is all a byproduct of his talent. In his own words, Beckham was born to be a footballer. Although he is a Londoner, he was constantly taken to watch Manchester United by his father, who travelled to every game. His mother often went with them. Once he demonstrated a gift for the game, his future was not in doubt.

At Old Trafford he came under the eye of Ferguson, whose extraordinary success at the club has been largely based on a policy of finding and grooming young players. Understanding what damage can be done to young men in their situation by constant media exposure, Ferguson has carefully restricted and monitored the public utterances of Beckham, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, and the Neville brothers. All are in their early 20s, all have made a holiday from international duty in their trophy cabinets, and yet they remain essentially private figures.

Their taste in girlfriends ensured that Beckham and Giggs moved eventually from the back pages to the front, emerging from Ferguson's shield to become public property. In the Britain of the late 90s, a young millionaire footballer going out with a blonde TV presenter or a pop singer is likely to be scrutinised as closely as the Prime Minister. They enter a different world, a Hello!-land, given no training to help them cope with a new set of rules and tests.

Beckham shares an agent with Alan Shearer, the England captain, whose ability to deal with superstardom by playing a dead bat even to the most annoying question has long been the despair of journalists, broadsheet as well as tabloid. Beckham admires the skill with which the 27-year-old Shearer covers his back as much as the skill with which he scores goals, but it is the younger man's instincts on the pitch that have led him to the kind of trouble Shearer has so assiduously avoided.

Although Beckham's soft voice and diffident delivery make him seem young for his age, as a footballer he is known to display a combative, even rancorous temper, seemingly at odds with his status as one of the few English players capable of



David Beckham at Nantes airport yesterday for his return home on Concorde and (below left) after scoring against Colombia and (right) the incident which led to his sending off



real artistry. He disputes decisions with referees, and occasionally he lashes out. As Bielderman pointed out to him, this can give the impression that he is a bit of a brat, and too big for his boots.

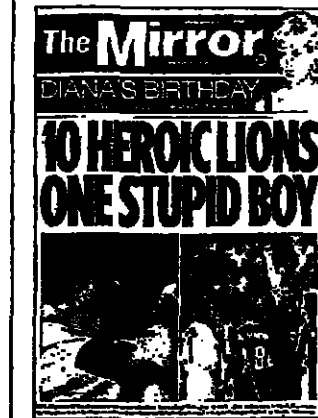
"I've never been sorry for anything I've done on the pitch," he responded, with an echo of Cantona. "Sometimes I've committed a foul and afterwards I've told myself I shouldn't have done it, but football is a contact sport, and there's a lot of pressure. On the pitch and off it, I'm two



different people. On the pitch, I know there are people who hate me."

It was Beckham's fate that his reaction to Simeone's original foul occurred only a few feet away from Tuesday night's referee, Kim Milton Nielsen of Denmark. In less pressurised circumstances, Nielsen might have quietly reprimanded both men and waved play on, knowing that a dismissal would disrupt and perhaps even ruin the pure narrative of what had, for 45 minutes, been a magnifi-

Bad tempered boot will hit where it hurts — in the pocket



How tabloid papers reported England's demise

Stuart Millar

DAVID Beckham yesterday broke his silence and apologised to fans for the display of petulance which led to his sending off in England's World Cup defeat by Argentina.

As the England squad arrived at Heathrow airport on a special Concorde flight from Nantes, Beckham, aged 23, found himself the target of media and public condemnation for his role in their early departure from France 98.

In an incident which experts believe could lead to a dramatic fall in his £8.1 million earnings next year, the Manchester United winger was sent off two minutes into the second half, with the score at 2-2, after lashing out with his right boot at Diego Simeone. The Argentinian captain had just fouled Beckham from behind.

England were eventually defeated in a penalty shoot-out but had managed to hold out for 75 minutes with 10 men — a performance which has been held as proof that the team could have won the game with 11 men, securing a place in the quarter-finals.

In a statement, he said: "This is without doubt the worst moment of my career. I will always regret my actions during last night's game."

"I have apologised to the England players and management and I want every England supporter to know how deeply sorry I am."

"I only hope that I will have the opportunity in the future to be part of a successful England team in the European Championships and World Cup."

There was some comfort for Beckham as his main sponsor, adidas, announced that it would continue to back him — despite being embarrassed by a football boot advertisement, run before the match, featuring the player under the slogan "England v Argentina will be remembered for what a player did with his feet."

A spokeswoman said: "We do not condone David Beckham's reaction to the late challenge and no doubt he will regret what has happened. However, Beckham is an outstanding player. We believe he will learn and grow from last night's experience and we will continue to support him at club and international level."

His other main sponsor, Brylcreem, also remained loyal. But there was speculation last night that the incident would remove Beckham from the A-list of corporate sponsorship targets. According to a report published by BusinessAge magazine this week, he is the highest-earning player in England, with an earnings total of £2.1 million. However, this figure is artificially high because Beckham has signed almost all his contracts in the last year, delivering all the lucrative signing-on fees in one go.

The adidas contract has netted him £1.4 million this year and the Brylcreem deal brought in £1 million, on top of his £1.35 million basic salary. The rest is made up of smaller sponsorships, endorsement offers, bonuses and investments.

"In the short term, his in-



come won't be affected too much," said Kevin Rose of BusinessAge. "But he has to speculate to accumulate and I think we will see that people will stop knocking on his door because they fear that with his temperament, this sort of thing could happen again."

Earlier, the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, urged fans not to make Beckham the scapegoat for the team's defeat. "David is very down at the moment. No one has to sit down and explain things to him. It was a silly mistake, a foolish thing to do but it was not violent. He has got to realise he can't do that sort of thing at this level of football."

He added: "It would be wrong to put the blame on David Beckham's shoulders or anybody's shoulders. It was a mistake but we can't go overboard about it and I'm

'It was a silly mistake, a foolish thing to do. He has got to realise he can't do that sort of thing at this level of football'

Glen Hoddle, England coach

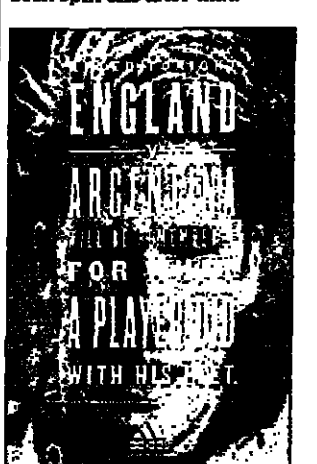
not looking for someone to blame."

Beckham's parents also called for compassion. Speaking from his home in Chingford, east London, Ted Beckham said: "David was so choked last night he couldn't speak. It didn't warrant a red card. I am very proud of him."

His mother, Sandra, added: "He hasn't let us down, we are very proud of him."

England's early exit from the World Cup has also left supermarkets with piles of unwanted memorabilia.

At Asda slashed the price of England shirts. Neil Mason, retail analyst at market researchers Mintel, said: "The majority of sales of shirts and flags and so on have been prior to the tournament, but if England had gone on and won there would have been spin-offs after that."



Beckham boot advertisement before Tuesday's game

□ **ENGLAND'S** penalty shootout against Argentina was watched by a record ITV audience of 26 million, according to figures released yesterday. The average for the whole match was 23.7 million — a record for an ITV programme and also perhaps the highest ever for a single football programme. More than 25 million watched England's defeat by West Germany in the 1990 World Cup, but they were spread over BBC and ITV.

□ **LESS** than 24 hours after England's defeat, travel agents were reporting a 20 per cent increase in inquiries from Britons keen to get over their disappointment under a hot foreign sun. The Association of British Travel Agents said it was expecting a rush of bookings to make up for the lean period the industry has gone through since the start of the World Cup.

□ **A KENT** couple have more reason than most to resent David Beckham's sending-off. After the game, Dennis and Brenda Beckham — absolutely no relation — were plagued with calls from angry fans lamenting their namesake's dismissal against Argentina. "It was funny at first," said Mr Beckham, "but after the first few calls it got a bit annoying." His wife had the last laugh, telling callers that David was out playing football.

□ **AS** if the mood in the Football Association's premises in Lancaster Gate was not bad enough yesterday, the white stuccoed building was severely damaged by smoke after fire broke out in a ceiling void. At the peak of the blaze, 80 firefighters from stations across north and west London were on the scene. All England's football trophies, including the silver Jules Rimet World Cup replica, were unaffected by the smoke and flames: most of the valuables are stored in a basement vault.

Rail companies to be fined for their failures

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

INSTANT fines are to be imposed on train companies who fail to run adequate services, after official figures yesterday revealed almost 1 million complaints from passengers during the past year.

Tough action to deal with defaulting companies is to be announced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, in the transport white paper due before the summer recess.

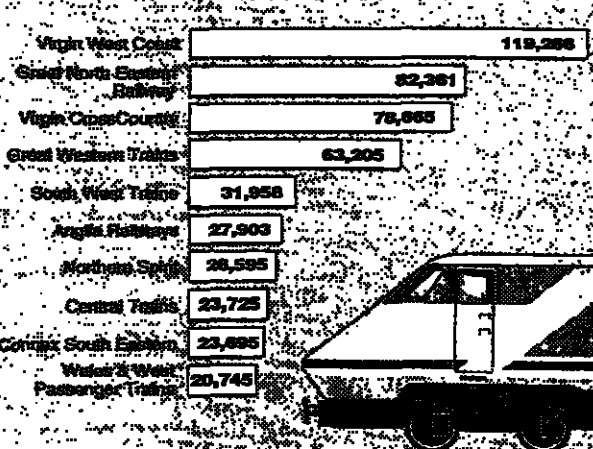
Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, described yesterday's figures from the rail regulator, John Swift, as "shockingly high". He said they showed how far rail operators still had to go to meet passengers' expectations on levels of service.

"This year the Government will be paying the rail industry a £1.5 billion subsidy. We expect train operators to act now to reduce passenger dissatisfaction."

Dr Strang's comments pre-

Complaining about trains

Worst performing companies in 1997/98



sage early legislation in the next parliamentary session which will lead to a strategic rail authority responsible for the overall control of the industry. One of its roles will be to fine rail companies who

fail to carry out their commitments to passengers. This duty should be carried out by the rail franchise director, John O'Brien, but his powers are limited and his job will be scrapped.

Mr Prescott would like to ensure that rail companies pay their fines out of profits and not from taxpayers' contributions, which he wants to ringfence. Rail companies refused thousands of pounds a year to angry customers, but they can come direct from current generous subsidies.

Yesterday's figures from records supplied by the companies were issued by Mr Swift for the first time. They reveal a general dissatisfaction among rail users far higher than the industry has been prepared to admit, and prove that its performance is no better than it was under British Rail.

Richard Branson's two rail companies received the highest number of written complaints. His west coast and CrossCountry companies notched up almost 200,000 of the 650,000 complaints in the 12 months up to last March. But the companies received a further 300,000 telephone complaints taking the total to 950,000.

The level of complaints was at a ratio of 115 per 100,000 passenger journeys. This compares with London Underground's 50 complaints per 100,000 journeys.

Mr Swift admitted that he had no powers to compel the companies to improve their performance, other than by exhortation. He agreed that the situation was probably worse because many passengers, particularly on commuter services, did not bother to complain.

He also conceded that the situation would get worse next year, as passengers realised they had a right to complain.

The Association of Train Operating Companies, representing operators such as Virgin and Stagecoach, welcomed the high level of passenger response. It said that feedback, both positive and negative, made for a better railway.

"If problems do occur, we want to help customers assert their contractual rights in a convenient and helpful way."

Scottish 'creature from the black lagoon' casts new light on evolution

SCIENTISTS have discovered a genuine "Creature from the Black Lagoon" — a swamp beast that was one of the first to walk on land, it was disclosed yesterday.

The 335 million-year-old fossil found around what used to be a shallow lake at East Kirkton Quarry near Bathgate, West Lothian,

has given scientists a unique insight into "cut and paste" evolution.

Zoologist Jennifer Clack from Cambridge University, who described the find in the journal *Nature*, gave the four-legged, 15cm, frog-like animal the Greek name *Eucritta melanolinnetes* — meaning creature from the black lagoon.

E. melanolinnetes was a tetrapod — a land vertebrate with four limbs — but belonged to neither of the two lineages of land animals represented today, the amphibians or the reptiles, mammals and birds, known respectively as *tetrapods* and *amniotes*.

The creature belonged to a third, the *baphetids*, which

have no modern descendants. Baphetids were crocodile-like in body and characterised by keyhole-shaped eye sockets.

The fossil is the first reasonably complete example of a baphetid to be found, although it has features seen in other groups. Writing in *Nature*, Neil Shubin, from the University

of Pennsylvania, said the creature was evidence of "parallel evolution" among different groups of early terrestrial vertebrates. "It seems major groups are not assembled in a simple linear or progressive manner — new features are often 'cut and pasted' on different groups at different times."

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As part of the NHS's 50th anniversary celebrations, nurses yesterday modelled designs for future uniforms created by students at London's Central St Martin's School of Fashion and Design
PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Dobson gets tough on quality of health care

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

DOCTORS will put their clinical freedom at risk if they fail to respond to measures unveiled yesterday to improve the quality and uniformity of patient care, ministers have warned.

Bodies being set up to advise and check on good practice in the NHS will get tougher powers if existing unacceptable variations in care persist, the Government said.

Ministers stressed that the bodies will be advisory and that doctors will retain the right to prescribe and practice as they see fit. But they said they will not tolerate continued and glaring discrepancies in care quality.

Baroness Jay, the Health Minister, said: "How well these variations are ironed out will determine how [the bodies] powers are strengthened in the future."

The measures, outlined in a consultation document, were announced by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, in an opening address to an international health conference in London to mark the 50th anniversary of the NHS.

He said: "The absence of such arrangements contributed to the children's heart surgery disaster in Bristol, the breast cancer screening failures in Devon and Exeter and the cervical cancer screening failures in Kent

and Canterbury. We must make sure such failures never occur again."

Under the Government's plans, NHS trusts will have a duty to ensure clinical standards are met in the same way as financial ones.

Ministers intend to set up a national institute for clinical excellence, which will provide guidance on new treatments and drugs; introduce national service frameworks, which will lay down what treatments and care should be given for particular conditions; and establish a commis-

"There always has to be the right for the individual clinician to decide"

sion for health improvement, which will monitor performance and where necessary recommend remedial action — including sending "hit squads" into failing NHS trusts.

Hospital doctors will be required to expose their work to clinical audit; GPs and their patients will have access to hospital success rates; and there will be annual surveys of the views of patients and carers.

Sir Alexander Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said: "We wel-

come the recognition of the crucial importance of professional self-regulation which relies on action by the health professions at local level."

However, health managers believe the plans contain an inherent tension over self-regulation and clinical freedom.

The consultation paper states that variations from recommended good practice "will increasingly be challenged locally". It adds: "We will expect the guidance produced by the national institute to be implemented consistently across the NHS."

Yet Health Minister Alan Milburn told journalists: "There always has to be the right for the individual clinician to decide what is in the best interests of the individual patient."

Mr Dobson told the conference, which is sponsored by the Guardian, that he was launching a £5 million initiative to test ways of modernising the NHS patient appointments system. "In an age where people are becoming used to telephone banking and booking cinema, theatre or airline tickets over the phone, the NHS appointment system is frankly archaic."

The minister warned the conference, which is discussing what the NHS may be like in 2020, against contemplating fundamental changes in its founding principles of free care and tax funding. Voters had endorsed the principles at the last election, he said.

Historically, black interests in America have been represented by Christian churches with a message of reconciliation and integration. Black Muslims are anti-integrationist. They think that Christianity is a conspiracy to keep them forever shackled. Inside the Nation of Islam

G2 cover story

University challenge



Cambridge old and new: Black tie, ball gown and Champagne, left, is the traditional image that a new poster, right, aims to dispel. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW PARSONS

Merit is our only test for entry, Cambridge tells state pupils

John Eard

CAMBRIDGE university yesterday launched a recruiting poster for state school pupils, in an effort to convince them — and the Government — that it is not part of the public school "old boy" network.

The poster is the university's first use of a brand and identity consultancy to try to change its image in

schools. With the slogan "You! Put Yourself in the Picture", it shows 14 smiling informal students in youth culture gear.

Its message is that origin is no barrier to getting into Cambridge if you have the right A levels.

Seven of the 14 students are from state schools and seven from independents, a frank reflection of the university's embarrassing social mix. Last year 47 per



cent of Cambridge's intake came from the state sector and 45 per cent from fee-paying private schools, although these latter educate only 7 per cent of the population.

College admissions tutors want to raise the state intake to 65 per cent, after a threat by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to "extend opportunity by redistributing resources". Ministers

threatened to withdraw £38 million worth of extra funding which supports the college system at Oxford and Cambridge.

Welcoming the posters, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said: "We are determined to create a climate where anyone who is capable of higher education should have the chance to benefit from it."

"Many state school pupils getting three As at A

level are not applying for Oxford and Cambridge. There can be no question of diluting standards of entry. But any pupil who gains the required qualifications should be encouraged to apply, and it should be made easy for them to do so."

The posters would have cost £20,000 to produce but Cambridge drew on its own "old boy" network to get them free — thanks to a

Christ's College graduate, Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, a company which owns advertising agencies.

Peter Widdup, creative director of Enterprise IG, the WPP subsidiary which designed the posters, said: "To speak of re-branding Cambridge is putting it a bit strongly. It's breaking down older perceptions and encouraging teachers to think again."

EC torpedoes 'lethal' plastic bath ducks

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE European Commission yesterday revealed the latest lethal health hazard lurking in its citizens' homes — the PVC bath duck, as chewed by generations of toddlers.

In an all-countries warning, the commission recommended that governments should consider banning the bath duck and other toys containing PVC which might be chewed by children, for fear that the phthalate chemicals in them might cause cancer.

Also in the firing line are teething rings, which some scientists suggest could wash the phthalates into the mouth through saliva.

The warning from Brussels follows claims of potential health dangers by environmental campaigners and consumer groups, but officials have backed away from attempting to impose a ban on the substance, which is the ingredient making plastic flexible.

Attempts by Emma Bonino, the consumer affairs commissioner, to secure an immediate ban were headed off in the light of scientific research from the European committee on toxicity, ecotoxicity and the environment, that no serious and immediate risk to health could be proved.

Instead the commission has decided to leave it to member states to brave the wrath of the PVC-chewing public. In a statement it warned that a high level of exposure might provoke what it called "negative health effects".

The recommendation in itself was a step back from the old days when the Commission didn't hesitate to consider EU-wide bans. It has now got wise to British newspaper stories about attempts to impose straight bananas.

Most evidence appears to come from tests on rodents, in

which the injection of phthalates has caused liver and kidney damage including cancer. The results of a Dutch study are expected in the autumn. The difficulty has been proving a direct link between childhood chewing and illness later in life — and in assessing how much of the substance would need to be digested to cause a problem.

The commission's decision was immediately criticised by the European consumers' organisation BEUC, which claimed it was putting the commercial interests of manufacturers above children's health. In a statement it said: "This decision is a slap in the face to Europe's most vulnerable consumers, children under the age of three, whose health appears to be the very last consideration."

It is truly shocking that commissioners seem to be saying that a small decrease in profits for the US toy industry resulting from the ban, would be more significant than the long-term damage to health ... which continued exposure to these products would ensure."

"Toy manufacturers were relieved that an outright ban had been rejected. But Maurice Bruggink, secretary general of the Toy Industries for Europe group, claimed consumers had been bamboozled by Greenpeace. He said: "We are dismayed that the commission has taken a decision which flies in the face of the scientific evidence and advice available."

"This is a clear example of measures being passed in response to highly-charged propaganda rather than concrete scientific evidence, in order to avoid political embarrassment in the commission. Soft plastic toys have been manufactured, tried, tested and rigorously controlled for the past 50 years."

Lawrence lawyer tells of anguish as suspects' trial put in jeopardy

Perry Carroll

A SENIOR crown prosecutor "aid" the Stephen Lawrence inquiry yesterday that he had begged the murdered teenager's family not to undertake a private prosecution, lest it fail and prevent the suspects from being tried again.

The comments of Howard Youngerwood, who before the private prosecution had decided to discontinue a crown prosecution of the five young men, produced an angry reaction from the Lawrence family, who accused him of ducking his responsibility for not bringing the suspects to justice.

Mr Youngerwood told the public inquiry he had felt physically sick in 1995 after learning of the private prosecution. He had rung Mr and Mrs Lawrence's solicitor, Imran Khan, to plead with him to wait until more evidence had been gathered and let the Crown Prosecution Service deal with the matter.

Referring to his own European Jewish roots, Mr Youngerwood said: "I was trying to speak to him as a human being who himself had suffered from racism." Mr Khan had been "polite" but non-committal.

The private prosecution against Neil Acoor, aged 22, Gary Dobson, aged 23, and Luke Knight, aged 20, collapsed at the Old Bailey in 1996 for lack of evidence.

The Crown's charges against the others, Jamie Acoor, aged 21, and David Norris, aged 21, were dropped before their cases came to trial. The five remain the prime suspects in the slaying of Stephen Lawrence, a promising A-level student, at a bus stop in Edgware, south London

Straw upholds ban on leader of black separatist Nation of Islam

THE ban on black separatist leader Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, entering Britain is to continue indefinitely despite his signing a promise three weeks ago to obey UK laws against inciting racial hatred.

Mr Farrakhan was told last night that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, had decided to continue the exclusion order following the disruption of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry by Nation of Islam followers. It is believed that Mr Straw had been considering lifting the ban.

The original exclusion order was signed 12 years ago by Douglas Hurd, following the Tottenham riots, when it was feared Mr Farrakhan's blend of anti-white, anti-Semitic and anti-gay black nationalism would spark further disturbances.

The Home Office said last night that Mr Farrakhan would be given an opportunity to make further representations before a final decision was taken. The High Court recently struck out a similar ban against the Rev Myung Moon, ruling it "procedurally unfair" that the Moores' leader had been given no chance to put his case.

Three weeks ago Mr Farrakhan signed a statement saying he recognised Britain as a multi-cultural society, undertaking not to do anything to incite racial hatred.

The Nation of Islam has an estimated 500 to 2,000 followers in Britain. The men wear a uniform of black suits, white shirts and bow ties.

by us. We still believe that if the matter had been left to the jury, as we wished, the suspects would be behind bars. We had the courage to seek justice for our son'

five suspects. "The fact that three of the suspects stood trial at all is a testament to the action taken

use their powers to stop the prosecution?"

Mr Youngerwood told the inquiry he decided to discontinue the crown prosecution using his mind rather than his heart: no competent criminal lawyer would have proceeded with the case in July 1993 — three months after the killing — because of the lack of evidence with which to convict.

He described his disappointment when he read the police file on the case, saying: "It made very unhappy reading. In both a professional and human being sense. The evidence was, in my view, even worse than I had been led to believe."

Mr Youngerwood said identification evidence given by Stephen's friend, Dwayne Brooks, a witness to the stabbing, was not good enough to secure a conviction against the two he picked out, Neil Acoor and Luke Knight.

Mr Youngerwood clashed with Michael Mansfield QC, for the family, who accused him of taking the role of a judge. He suggested Mr Youngerwood should have asked for an adjournment in the court proceedings while police attempted to gather more evidence, rather than the less reversible step of discontinuing the prosecution.

Mr Youngerwood replied: "However much I was filled with revulsion about this crime — and the view, which I think everyone has taken, of the suspects — as lawyers we could not allow suspects to remain in custody when there was no basis of evidence, as of July 1993, and just the possibility of forensic evidence emerging [in time for the trial] two months later."

Today the inquiry hears more evidence from the CPS and a last police witness.

Industry hit by lack of quality graduates

John Carvel Education Editor

BRITISH industry is running seriously short of graduates with the right combination of technical skills and commercial attitudes, according to a survey of 250 leading blue-chip companies published yesterday by the Association of Graduate Recruiters.

Industrial firms said they would be unable to fill half the vacancies for newly qualified graduates this year and non-industrial firms said the shortfall would be 30 per cent.

Although the companies received on average 40 applications for every vacancy, they were finding it increasingly difficult to recruit electrical and electronic engineers and graduates in computer science and information technology. Recruitment problems were most severe in firms outside London and the south-east.

"Organisations rate interpersonal skills and customer orientation very highly. They are satisfied with graduates' general IT skills and computer literacy, but finding people who are both technically competent and commercially aware is difficult," said Roly Cockman, the association's chief executive.

Britain was producing too few high calibre graduates in IT, food science, chemistry and some types of engineering. Despite rapid expansion

of the universities over the last 10 years, they were not keeping pace with companies' demand for these specialists which is expected to rise by 12.4 per cent this year following an 11.5 per cent increase in 1997.

Tony Blair told the Labour Party conference last year that the Government would create places for an extra 500,000 students before the next election. But education ministers have warned that most expansion would be in further education colleges and they have no plans to direct students into the subjects in most commercial demand.

Mr Cockman said there was little evidence of organisations responding to the shortage by increasing salaries. The median starting salary for a new graduate in the non-industrial sector was expected to be £16,500 — up 4.3 per cent on last year and in line with the increase in average earnings. The median graduate starting salary in the industrial sector would be £16,500, up 5.3 per cent.

The top 10 per cent of graduate earners could expect a starting salary of £21,000 or more — available from London-based firms in the legal, financial, software and IT sectors.

Students wanting to impress employers should continually update their IT skills and gain as much work experience as possible to increase their business awareness, Mr Cockman said.

Top state schools to get 'independence'

John Carvel Education Editor

A RADICAL plan to give more independence to successful state schools was sketched out last night by Stephen Byers, the Schools Standards Minister, to deliver Tony Blair's dream of finding a "third way" in education, departing from traditional Labour and Conservative approaches.

In a lecture in a free-market think tank, he said the Government was working on proposals to exempt the best schools from regulations that applied in the rest of the education system.

Mr Byers understood to want extra freedom for successful heads to ignore the national curriculum and escape the full rigour of routine inspection by the Office for Standards in Education.

"One of our priorities is to identify new ways in which excellent schools can simply be allowed to get on with what they do well without undue distraction," he told the Social Market Foundation.

They should get more than a pat on the back for achieving great results, he said. "The reward should be greater freedom to improve...and active encouragement to share the secrets of their success with other schools."

The proposal followed a speech last week from Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, suggesting a lighter-touch inspection regime, allowing schools with good exam results to avoid an Ofsted visit for up to 12 years.

Mr Byers said the "Third Way" attempted to apply "traditional values to a changed setting". Critics said it was a presentational gimmick "to dispense an underlying continuity between New Labour and Thatcherism".

Third Way, it departed from the old Left's attempt to exercise command and control over schools through local education authorities and it was different from the new Right's reliance on the market forced to drive up standards.

The Third Way was about recognising diversity, stretching pupils and levering up standards in all schools. A revolution had started in education, he said, where there would be experiments in performance-related pay for teachers, Saturday and holiday working, and ditching the national curriculum to focus on key skills.

"I want to encourage a wider range of interests to promote zones — parents and more schools and businesses should be in a prime position to lead zones in future bidding rounds," he said.

Disaffected 14-16-year-olds who persistently truant or under-achieve at school will be given up to two days a week work experience or courses at colleges of further education. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced 21 pilot experiments allowing pupils to drop two of the subjects in the normal national curriculum to spend more time on vocational training.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the scheme was a truant's charter.

Sound of the future from pocket size hi-fi

Amelia Gentleman

MUSIC lovers could soon be free to dispense with cumbersome multi-stacking CD players in favour of a pocket-sized device smaller than a credit card, christened the My-fi.

Promoted as the world's smallest hi-fi, the British-designed machine can play music downloaded from a CD player or direct from the Internet and stored on a minute memory card inside the unit.

Design companies Priestman Goode and the Cambridge Design Partnership claim that its miniature size will not affect sound quality and hope to market the product to "serious audiophiles".

Mike Beadman, director of Cambridge Design Partnership, said: "There are no moving parts so it's very light and

it won't skip or jump tracks — this will be high quality music for those who are out and about."

Complete with earphones, the player is expected to appeal to people who like to combine running with listening to music.

The two companies are seeking a manufacturer to support the development and marketing of the prototype. But the machine will not come cheap: it is likely to cost about £300, complete with a gadget linking it to a personal computer. The memory cards which can store about an hour's worth of music cost around some £100.

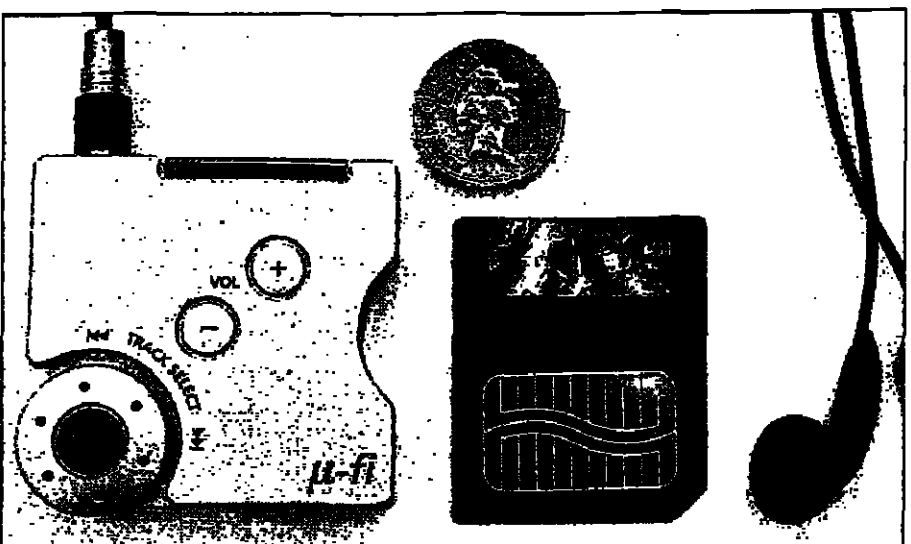
"The technology is coming down in price daily. When CD players were first invented they went on the market for thousands of pounds. You can re-record as many times as you want so users could buy two cards and record their

chosen CD whenever they want to listen to them. It only takes a few seconds to record a whole CD," Mr Beadman said.

The player can run on a battery for two hours and it has a screen that displays the name of the artist, album and track. Its creators also boast a digital equaliser and audio compressor which can customise the sound reproduction to suit the listener.

However record companies warn that this kind of innovation has alarming implications for the music business. Internet users are able to access a variety of albums from unlicensed sites on the web.

Neil Cartwright, a Sony Internet spokesman, said: "This is extremely worrying, because people can download CDs from the Internet for free and there's nothing to protect the artists or the copyright holders."



The My-fi, a mini hi-fi system smaller than a credit card, which offers mobility and good quality sound. PHOTOGRAPH: GEOFF ROBINSON

Midnight attack on home of hedgerow campaigner

Martin Wainwright

POLICE are investigating a midnight attack on the cottage of an environmentalist who secured the future of thousands of miles of hedgerow in a test case last year.

A five-gallon drum of diesel fuel, perforated and weighted with a chain, was thrown through the window of Colin Seymour's home in Flamborough, East Yorkshire.

The attack came shortly after a hearing arising out of the test case. In his January 1997 judgment, Judge Tom Cricknell had upheld a 1965 Enclosure Act to protect a 50-yard strip of hawthorn hedge.

At the latest hearing at Hull county court the judge censured Flamborough parish council for failing to look after the hedge as required by his order. The council was also warned that "main-

tenance work" carried out under contract by one of its members had damaged the hedge and must cease.

Mr Seymour, age 63, was hailed as Britain's most successful amateur lawyer after the hedgerow case. Hundreds of similar hedges have since benefited from the ruling that enclosure acts' references to hedges being "maintained forever" remain in force.

Police are investigating the attack on Mr Seymour's home. Yesterday he said he would not be deterred, and Robert Forrester, chief executive of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust which has backed Mr Seymour, said: "Bully boy tactics and intimidation simply strengthen our resolve."

Flamborough parish council signed a written undertaking after the latest court case not to damage the hedge further and to maintain it as ordered.

Martin Kettle reports from Washington on a multinational effort to resist cultural domination

Britain joins Hollywood-resisters

B RITAIN'S arts minister took part this week in an international governmental conference aimed at stemming the global influence of Hollywood and American popular culture.

In a striking departure from the Blair government's generally pro-American and pro-globalisation stance, Mark Fisher participated in a conference in Ottawa called by Sheila Copps, Canada's heritage minister, a strong opponent of American-dominated "cultural free trade".

Nineteen countries were represented at the conference, from which the United States was initially excluded. Canadian officials said this was because the US had no cabinet-level cultural minister. After protesting, the US embassy was allowed to send two observers.

The conference, from which the media were excluded

Unlike trade merchandise, 'culture should not be locked up in agreements on investment'

throughout, was a response to international fears that American-produced film, television, music and other entertainment are crowding local artists out of their home cultures, making it harder for them to make a living and feeding the US-dominated homogenisation of world entertainment.

Observers and participants denied that the conference was an America-bashing exercise. They said the emphasis was on promoting diversity and distinctiveness, rather than denouncing Hollywood and other motors of the US world entertainment industry. The ministers agreed initiatives for increased co-operation in international broadcasting and for the production of culturally oriented websites. They agreed to meet again in Mexico in 1999 and in Greece in 2000. Several conceded that there was no consensus on the issue of policies to protect cultures against American influence.

"This is just the start," the Los Angeles Times quoted Mr

Fisher as saying yesterday. "All we have done today is identify the landscape and set the agenda." Mr Fisher was returning to Britain yesterday and could not be reached for further comment.

The countries represented included Barbados, Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Iceland, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Sweden and Ukraine.

Of the 40 invited to take part, more than half failed to do so. France, often seen as the most vocal opponent of American cultural power, surprisingly sent an observer rather than a minister.

The meeting was the culmination of a long effort by Ms Copps to create a forum in which countries which are anxious about American-dominated cultural uniformity can debate ways of mitigating and resisting it.

At the heart of the participants' anxieties is the belief that culture and entertainment are too important to national identity to be treated in the same way as the goods and merchandise covered in trade treaties.

"Culture should not be locked up in agreements on investment," Sweden's arts minister, Maria Ulfvick, told the meeting.

Several ministers privately criticised the exclusion of the US, a decision which Ms Copps defended. Some expect that it will eventually have to be included in future meetings.

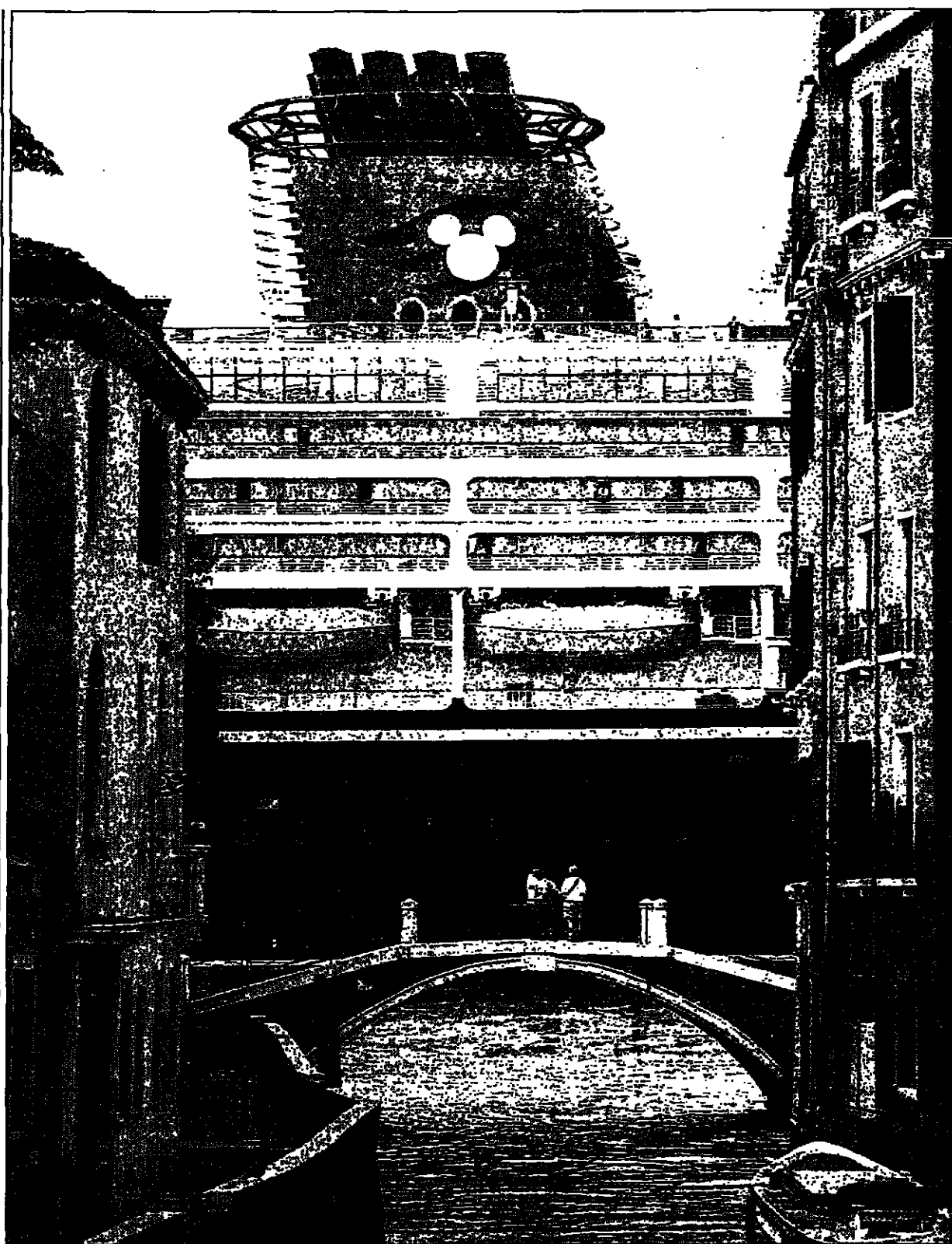
"There has to be a constructive engagement of all countries," said Mia Mottley, the Barbadian representative. "That includes the United States, especially since America is seen by many as promoting most strongly a single prescription for advancing almost all human endeavour."

"We appreciate the best that Hollywood has to offer," Mrs Copps said after the conference.

"In Canada, we also know, however, that culture is more than Hollywood."

Canada has a history of tenacious defence of its television, radio and printing industries. Like the US, it limits foreign ownership of its media.

Even so, 96 per cent of film showings in Canada are American, three-quarters of the music broadcast on Canadian radio comes from abroad, and four out of five magazines sold in Canada come from outside the country, mainly from the US.



The new Disney Magic cruise liner dwarfs the palazzos of Venice yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIAN BROOK

Asia's new status symbol unveiled

John Gittings in Hong Kong

B ILL CLINTON will touch down today in Air Force One at Hong Kong's new airport, a high-esteem symbol he is now held by Beijing.

The mega-project on Chek Lap Kok island will have been formally opened only hours before by the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin. In Hong Kong to celebrate the first anniversary of the handover.

It was only confirmed on Tuesday that Mr Clinton would use the new airport. If the Beijing summit had gone less well, he would almost certainly have landed at Kai Tak airport, which remains in use for four more days.

Mr Clinton is to leave Shanghai this morning for a sight-seeing tour of Guilin in south-west China, so he will arrive in Hong Kong in the evening, after Mr Jiang has left. The original idea was to make sure the leaders' visits did not overlap; now they would probably be happy to have another public chat.

The symbolism of the new airport is not confined to current diplomacy. Its origins lie in a desire for a different kind of symbolism — of which Mr Jiang would probably prefer not to be reminded.

It was the Beijing massacre of June 1989 which prompted the Hong Kong government to commit huge resources to the project. Although Kai Tak was

at the limit of its capacity, there were cheaper options.

But Hong Kong public confidence had been so shattered by the Tiananmen Square crackdown that the then governor, David Wilson, decided a dramatic commitment to the future was required. He announced the decision in December 1989.

For several years the project only increased tension with Beijing: the Chinese accused Britain of trying to drain Hong Kong's reserves and line the pockets of British contractors.

But the anger abated, partly because the rail and land link created a second mega-project that boosted revenue through the sale of government land.

Today, most Hong Kongers are far more interested in Chek Lap Kok than in the handover anniversary. The rail link, opened two weeks ago, and the new housing developments built along it have aroused a fever of excitement.

A huge scheme for 3,500 flats on the airport route is the only development to have been over-subscribed in the economic recession. About 6,500 hopeful homeowners registered in May for the first stage. But the project and others associated with the airport are not immune from the economic crisis. Second-round buyers are more cautious. Flats in new estates bought last year have fallen in value by up to 40 per cent.

In the nervous atmosphere of recession, some critics have renewed suggestions that the airport project was misconceived. They point to the huge capital cost, the increased landing charges, and the high price of tickets on the rapid transit line.

Tourism has slumped in the past year and aircraft move-



Hong Kong people gather on Kai Tak airport's roof-top car park

PHOTOGRAPH: FREDERIC BROWN

ments are not increasing as quickly as earlier estimates. New airports in the Portuguese enclave of Macau and across the border in Shenzhen have also relieved some of the pressure.

These criticisms are academic, since the project is almost complete, although some

believe the airport experience may induce greater caution before other substantial projects are embarked upon. It has also been clear for a long time that there was no way of squeezing more flights into Kai Tak: a second runway was a practical impossibility.

Hong Kongers have some affection for Kai Tak, which welcomed its first scheduled flight in 1934. There will be no shortage of acclaim when Mr Jiang opens the airport. A project once viewed with suspicion by China has now become a proud achievement by a Hong Kong happily reunited with the motherland.

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Mr Vaughan said the transformation of supermarket retailing into a branch of public relations can do no harm to the retailers' prospects.

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Israel goes under water to counter Arab bomb

Julian Borger in Jerusalem and Martin Kettle in Washington

I SRAEL has begun testing submarines capable of firing nuclear cruise missiles, with the intention of deterring a first-strike attack by Iran or any other Islamic rival in the Middle East's accelerating arms race.

The Pentagon has confirmed Israeli press reports that three German-built Dolphin class submarines will be fully operational early next year. The first is undergoing trials in the North Sea.

Defence analysts say the submarines reflect the conviction in Israeli military circles that the development of an Islamic bomb in the Middle East is unstoppable. Israel must, therefore, develop a "second-strike capability" in case its land-based nuclear arsenal is wiped out in a surprise attack, they argue.

A recent Pentagon study reported that Israel had developed an air-launched cruise missile that should be operational by 2002. The Popeye Turbo, with a range of more than 200 miles, could be easily adapted for submarine launch and is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, US military analysts say.

According to Jane's Fighting Ships, the diesel and electric-powered Dolphin submarines can fire surface-to-surface missiles from their torpedo tubes. They were first ordered in 1986 to replace Israel's 1970s-vintage Gal submarines, which are a third of the Dolphin's size.

The programme was cancelled in 1990 for lack of funds, but was revived after the Gulf war when Germany agreed to fund the construction of two state-of-the-art submarines.

Yossi Melman, an Israeli analyst writing in the Ha'aretz newspaper, attributed the decision to feelings of guilt at the role of German firms in supplying Iraq with materials for its non-conventional weapons programmes. Israel paid for the third submarine.

Israel currently holds a long lead in the Middle East strategic arms race. Jane's Intelligence Review claimed last year that 150 nuclear warheads and 50 Jericho-II intermediate range missiles were stored at the Zachariah air force base, south-east of Tel Aviv. The Jericho has a range of 3,000 miles and can deliver a one-ton payload, enough for a nuclear device.

When Baghdad showed signs of catching up in 1991, the then Israeli prime minister, Menachem Begin, ordered an air strike against Iraqi nuclear facilities. Israel now sees Iran as the main threat, accusing it of developing weapons of mass destruction with Russian, North Korean and Chinese help.

Israeli planners do not rule out a pre-emptive attack on Iranian nuclear facilities, using F-16 fighter-bombers. But there is a deepening assumption, Mr Melman says, that "it is not possible to prevent Iran from purchasing military nuclear capability".

"This could mean the development of second nuclear strike capability."

Internet birth delivers wanted woman in US

Martin Kettle in Washington

TWO weeks ago a woman in a Florida maternity ward — known only as "Elizabeth" — became a cyber-celebrity by being the first woman to give birth in a live Internet broadcast.

Yesterday the same woman, Elizabeth Ann Oliver, turned herself in on nine misdemeanor counts of passing dud cheques at local supermarkets.

When 40-year-old Mrs Oliver gave birth last month to Sean, her fourth child, thousands of Internet users could not see the broadcast because excessive demand caused the system to crash.

But they did not include the Orange County prosecutors, who saw enough of Elizabeth in labour to be able to identify her as one half of a couple they wanted to interview in connection with \$1,300 worth of bad cheques paid to shops in 1989 and 1990.

At the time of the broadcast, it was assumed that Mrs Oliver's decision to be known only by her first name was prompted by a desire for privacy. It has since become clear she had other reasons for wanting to avoid publicity.

By the time the Orange County sheriff's office had identified her from the



Elizabeth was identified by prosecutors from broadcast

June 16 broadcast and sent an officer to the Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando, she and baby Sean were gone.

The police said her husband, Gilberto Oliver, was also wanted, in his case by authorities in neighbouring Seminole County for violating a probation order which also stemmed from a conviction for passing bad cheques.

Yesterday, in a second and less rewarding few minutes of fame, Mrs Oliver went to Orlando and turned herself in. She was later released on bail.

She had little to say to reporters as she left. "This has been a real stressful time for our friends and family," she said, before disappearing once more.

Commonwealth chief meets Abiola during visit to Nigeria

Reuters in Abuja

THE Commonwealth secretary-general, Emeka Anyaoku, met detained Nigerian opposition politician Moshood Abiola yesterday, a Commonwealth official said.

"They spoke for more than one hour. The discussion went well," the official said. He did not reveal details of the conversation.

Chief Anyaoku is on a five-day visit to Nigeria and has already met the military ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over last month after the sudden death of Sani Abacha.

Gen. Abubakar has won plaudits for freeing more than 30 political prisoners, but releasing Chief Abiola is more difficult because of his claim to the presidency on the basis of 1993 elections.

Child-sex witch-hunt victims lose civil case against police

FOUR adult victims of the Wenatchee "witch hunt", in which 43 people were accused of molesting more than 60 children, have vowed to fight on after losing a \$80 million (\$37 million) civil court case against the authorities, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

Pastor Robert Roberson, his wife Connie and two others, sued the police and social workers of the Pacific north-west town for false arrest and imprisonment on allegations of engaging in a bizarre child-sex ring in the Robersons' church basement.

The Robersons and their co-plaintiffs were acquitted or

had the charges dropped, but all spent time in jail.

The jury found their arrests were justified because the children had made allegations, though they later recanted. The Robersons, who had their daughter, aged five, placed in foster care, said after the verdict in Seattle they would seek the release of 14 Wenatchee residents still jailed and continue their case against the police.

Part of the problem was that in the early stages of the hysteria that gripped the town, the sole police investigator was also the foster-father of the two girls making the allegations.

Dan Atkinson

MORE than six tonnes of peaches are to be thrown into the increasingly tough publicity battle between Britain's retailers. The fruit — rendered unsaleable by European law — will be given away to children by the Asda supermarket chain.

Officially, Asda hopes to "highlight the issue" of inflexible Brussels lawmaking. But retailing experts spotted another drive by the retailer to coddle up to the consumer. Richard

Branson, founder of Virgin, in many ways father of the trend which Asda is following, that of appearing to side with the customer against the big interests, whether they be — in Virgin's case — other airlines or, in a previous Asda battle, medicine producers.

Public relations is the key to victory, according to analysts. Only through a series of high-profile stunts can supermarkets be on the same side as the large manufacturers and heavyweight brand names be altered.

Lawrence Sugarmann,

retailing analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said the peaches affair was part of a pattern whereby Asda was attempting to "get inside" the customer and take the moral high ground. This sort of stunt, he said, took things "to a new level by being the champion of the people".

This is not the first time Asda has handed out free food to express its displeasure with what it sees as over-right Brussels regulations. In October 1996, the store responded to a European prohibition on the sale of apples of less than

55 millimetres diameter by giving away Cox's to the first 1,000 children to visit its stores.

Some saw Asda's high-profile events as operating at a deeper level than simply lining up the chain alongside the consumer. Clive Vaughan, director of Verdict Research, the retail consultancy, said Asda was trying to create a "personality" for itself. In Asda's case, he said, such a person would be "young, friendly and a bit of a laugh".

Hence, Asda's "singles' nights" and its "shop with a hunk" stunt which, for the

duration of British involvement in the World Cup, offered good-looking escorts to "football widows".

All stores, he said, commissioned research asking customers what sort of "person" the store would be. Sainsbury, it seems, is compared to the actress Penelope Keith, whereas Asda emerges as "a bit more wide-boyish" — not quite the image chairman Archie Norman, who also chairs the Conservative Party, may be looking for.

Looked at another way, Tesco was more East-Enders, while Asda had

more of a Coronation Street aura. But such images changed, he added. Over the years, Tesco's long march into the middle-class market had placed it somewhere between Gold Blend and The Archers.

Mr Vaughan said the transformation of supermarket retailing into a branch of public relations can do no harm to the retailers' prospects.

The motive behind the PR offensives has not changed: Mr Sugarmann said the aim remained to make the brand names of the supermarkets "more valuable".



PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID TUCKER and GAIL OSKOT

Howard heads off risk of handing power to Hanson

Human rights organisations say the creation of a court would denigrate the perpetrators of humanitarian crimes and be better than using sanctions and military force, which can hurt civilians more than the offenders.

Britain was also accused of trying too hard to accommodate extreme positions, particularly that of the United States, which is thought unlikely to sign the treaty because of strong congressional opposition and its insistence that no US personnel be subject to its jurisdiction.

protect the Australian way of life are trigger phrases of One Nation campaigning. They are now appearing with increasing frequency in the speeches of mainstream politicians.

One Nation's readiness to say the previously unsayable was underlined again yesterday when the party released its official policy document on "Immigration, Population and Social Cohesion".

"Immigration has become central to a perspective which

“Immigration has become central to a perspective which holds that inherited Australian institutions, culture and identity are outmoded and expendable,” it says.

As operated by the mainstream parties, immigration will lead to “the Asianisation of Australia” and “the bizarre situation of largely Asian cities on our coasts which will be culturally and racially different from the traditional Australian nature of the rest of the country”.

Under One Nation, immigration would be set at a number equal to those leaving

The leader's stress on the equality of all Australians was a tribute to One Nation's influence

Australia permanently each year. It would be non-discriminatory unless the numbers would "significantly alter the ethnic and cultural make-up of the country".

With such language One Nation is sharpening the arguments on the Australian right, where such sentiments have hitherto usually been subterranean.

subterranean.

Howard has avoided an election with the whole of the senate would have been up for re-election, but he may still call an early ordinary election, in which only half the senate seats are contested.

This is partly because he fears One Nation may expand its support among his voters, partly because the left and right wings of his own party are at increasing odds, and partly because the economic problems seem likely to multiply.

It is hard to believe that just over two years ago the prime minister won what looked like a decisive victory and seemed set for two terms in office at least.

Peril of Pauline, G2 page 8

Jonathan Steele in central Kosovo on the anger and despair of the rural minority

TWO farmers, well into their pensionable age, stand by a tree clutching Yugoslav bolt-action rifles from the second world war. Their feeble barricade consists of a tangle of thorn-bushes pulled partly across the road.

The two are Serbs from the Donje clan, which has lived in this sprawling hilltop village in central Kosovo for generations. Unlike many other rural Serbs, who have abandoned their homes since the 1990s, the Donje clan has remained in the province's ethnic-Albanian independence movement gathers strength, they say they are determined to fight

bulk of the country where Serbs predominate—in contrast to the province of Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians are 90 per cent of the population and where the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is pushing for independence.

The Serbs insist that they will not allow Kila to suffer the same fate as nine other villages in the area, which were abandoned by their people after Kila attacks. All the villages of the central region—one the KLA's strongholds, and an area where the Serbs accuse the KLA of planning ethnic

Stojan Domic, a tough-talking younger member of the assembly, is also present. He leads the way to two trenches dug in the clay beside a row of oak trees. A man breaks out across the valley dotted with red-tiled farmhouses and points to a ridge opposite. "Those are the KLA positions," he shouts down. "Stojan Domic warns."

As if on cue, a throaty burst of fire from what he identifies as a machine gun echoes across the valley. The Serbs answer with their Kalashnikovs. "The confrontation" begins about a month ago, he says.

No one in Bica's 76 houses has been wounded, but he points to a large bullet hole in the drapings of a house, its owner, a woman, has fled to Serbia, he says. By this he means somewhere in the

cleaning.

Despair pervades Kline, the assembly. It is a place surrounded by the KLA and has only one safe exit route. Most shops are shattered, and many of its 2,000 residents have fled. A larger part of the 6,000 Albanians. They fear Serb reprisals.

Western governments have criticized the Serb police and Yugoslav army for using excessive force against Kosovo's Albanians, but in the past few days they have transit point for Serbs escaping from the villages — the refugees see it in political terms. "The Serbs' position has done far too little."

In the past month, either because of direct attack or panic to escape it, the area of Serb settlement in Kosovo has been virtually empty. Only in Kosovo's main cities do Serbs feel relatively safe, and

even there the alternating emotions that make up the national reality — rage, despair, a sense of being misunderstood, and a readiness to lash out in retaliation — are getting stronger by the day.

"About 650 Serb refugees are here," says Stojan Donic, a Bica man who chairs Kima's executive council. At least that many again "have moved through and gone to relatives in Serbia." Two-thirds of the Albanians employed by the council, including the auditor and budget officer, are Serbs. The work, alleged under KLA pressure not to support Serb structures. Not one child has been registered for next term in the two high schools.

Milovan Vostic is one parent who took his wife and two children to the bus station last week and sent them to another part of Serbia.

A map of the Yugoslav Republic, showing the locations of Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia. The map highlights the region of Kosovo and the city of Pristina. An inset map shows the location of the Yugoslav Republic within the Balkans.



morning last week they attacked us without warning," he said.

Dusevice has 20 Albanian houses set on higher ground. With hindsight, he remembers noticing the Albanians moving in large numbers away from the village the day before the attack. "But they often go in big groups to the fields, so we did not suspect anything".

He does not accuse his neighbours of joining in — he did not see the attackers clearly. "No one warned us," he says resignedly.

The nearby village of Jelovac suffered a similar attack. "Relations with our Albanian neighbours have not been good since 1961," conceded Dusan Vostic, now a refugee in Kлина. "At least until a month ago we greeted each other in the street."

The Serbs suspected that something was up when two elderly men were kidnapped *one afternoon last week while*

out cutting hay. That evening they saw the Albanians moving women and children away. Next day the Serb houses came under fire, and after a few hours of resistance the villagers fled.

"We had seen armed men in the woods about a month ago. We told the police, but no one offered us any help or protection," Mr Vostic said.

Now he is afraid to stay in Klna, where he, his wife, and five children live in his mother-in-law's tiny two-roomed house. "When a man has been bitten by a snake, he's frightened even of a lizard. If the state doesn't take measures, Klna may be attacked too."

High-life and magic are over for Brezhnev's girl

James Meek in Moscow

RUMA has lost one of its best links to the corrupt, hedonistic court of Leonid Brezhnev with the death of his daughter, Galina.

Galina had a chaotic life, drink problems and disastrous marriages mirrored the decay at the heart of the communist hierarchy. She was the youngest of the 19 sons of the late Soviet Union's leader, which hastened her family's doom. She died in hospital in Moscow on Tuesday of a stroke, aged 62.

At the age of six she eloped with a 17-year-old boy. Then she married a magician. Three days later the marriage ended. Her father sacked the registrar, saying: "A couple of days all we need is a family."

She loved to dance and drink, and to ride in her father's luxury cars.

One of her best friends,

for occupation. The same fate awaited another husband, a police official jailed under Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Galina loved the good life and loud company," the *Commersant* Daily newspaper wrote. "She was a woman of her kind—a self-centered character, her matrimonial life and her strong constitution." Although she was treated at a drying-out clinic in the 1970s, *Commersant* noted adamantly, it did not stop her drinking.

"The ruling class had never experienced such good times as under Brezhnev," one historian wrote.

Yet, Galina was not a member of her class. Galina's once-privileged lifestyle paled beside the excesses and rapaciousness of the new Russian rich.

"She loved diamonds and wild rides in Paganini Mercedes," the *Pravda* television news program reported.

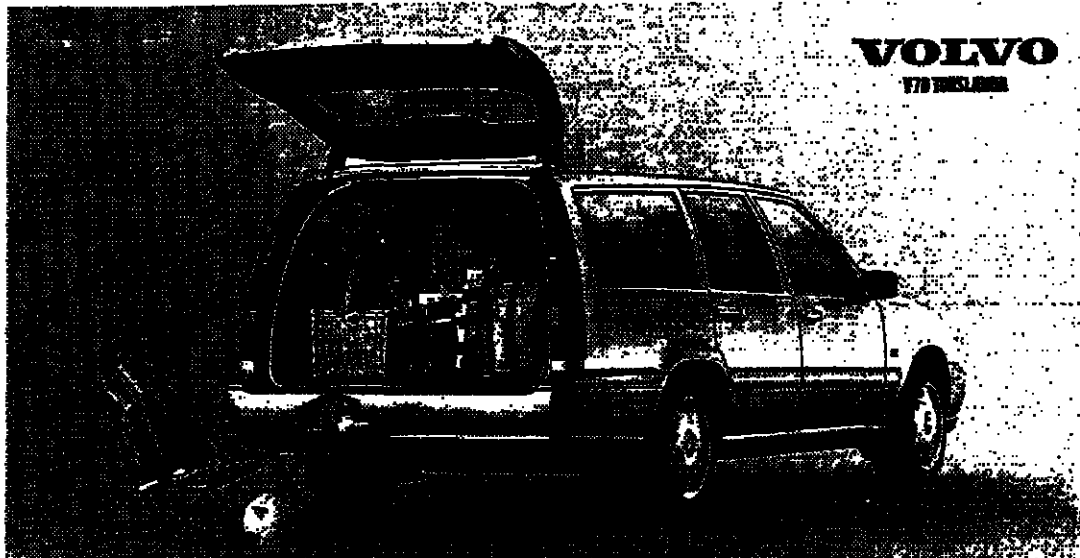
"But by today's standards she was a good girl."

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TAUTUMAS

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

I AM distressed by news of Michael Winner, whom my so-called rival in the Sunday Telegraph accuses of misbehaving in a restaurant. Michael, it is claimed, recently "shocked fellow diners" in the Notting Hill restaurant Assaggi by bringing his own wine (a 1978 half bottle of Petrus 68), and being charged £25 corkage. I find this hard to believe. A few weeks ago, when my colleagues Simon Bowers and Emily Barr and I had lunch with the old boy at that same Assaggi, he brought no Petrus of any year. "It is totally incorrect," Michael confirms when Simon calls. "Mr Fraser has written one of his stiff letters demanding a correction and a donation to charity." Michael admits to taking the wine, "but I said to Pietro, 'Please, please charge me corkage on this.' But he wouldn't." My sympathies to Michael, with whom I am now closer than ever... so close, indeed, that my mother has made him a bowl of chopped liver, and delivered it to his home along with a jar of New Green pickled cucumbers. This liver he has since described as "historic".

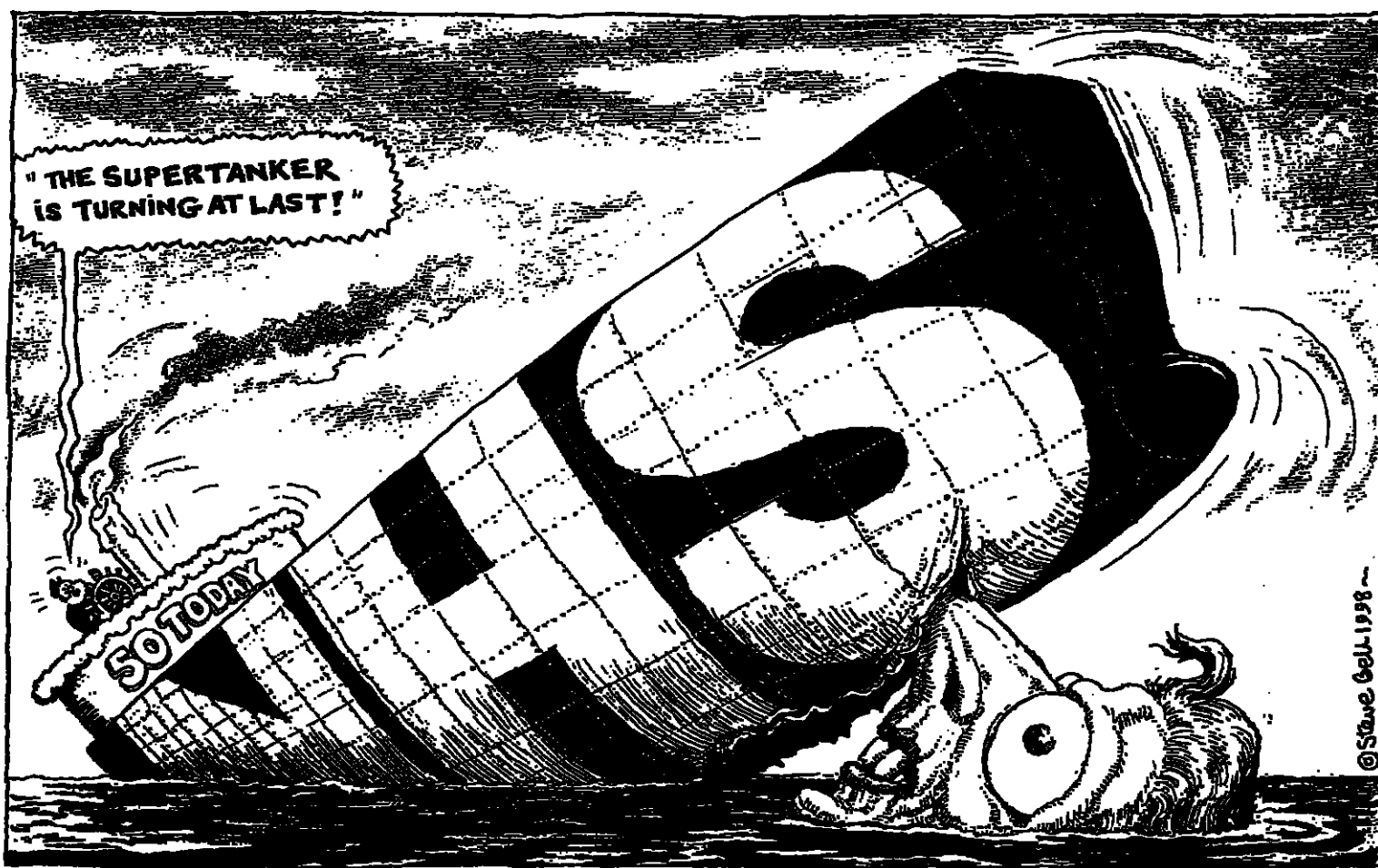
MEANWHILE, another so-called rival has news that Andrew Lloyd-Webber has been naughty behaved yet again. This time, reports the Express, he has restricted actors in his splendid new musical *Whistle While You Work* (Hitler is a Twerp) to bringing one guest each to the cast party held after it opened last night. Will the little fellow never learn any manners? As to how Andrew's bladder coped on the big night, there is no word as yet.

WHEN William Hague returns to Westminster, he faces a bit of a fight from Fatty "Nicholas" Soames. If there's one thing Fatty will not brook, apart from parsimonious carving, it's malinger. When he was armed forces minister, and Labour's then spokesman David Clark missed a debate through flu, Fatty almost imploded with rage. "It is an extraordinary excuse," Hansard for February 6 1997 records the big boy as ranting, "to say he cannot be here because he has flu. It is absolutely ridiculous. Time after time, honourable friends come here reeking with flu, falling down with it, and take their places... Opposition members chunter away, but they know perfectly well that that is not an acceptable excuse." Soames, it seems, they are much of a mind. Let's hope William's martial arts training has included some instruction on Sumo wrestling.

A LETTER arrives from Mary Grynolds, of Somerset County Museums Services. "I shall be pleased if you would insert the attached in your 'Diary' column at the appropriate time," she writes. I shall be pleased to oblige. "7th July: Beekeeping. 12th July: Spinning and Weaving. 15th July: Lace Making and Wood Engraving 10.15am-12.30pm." There are further details of Lancashire Beyond, an exhibition in Glastonbury. But that's enough excitement for one day.

ASO gracious enough to write is HJ Roberts (MD, FACP, FCCP). As an antidote to the deluge of tasteless Diana boom shamelessly exploiting her death, HJ has written *Princess Diana, The House of Windsor and Palm Beach*. How delightful. "Several persons have suggested that I might send you a copy," he writes, "because your interested readers might not be aware of its publication." Can that be so? With its testament from no less a judge than Donald Trump ("delightful and incredibly well-researched"), HJ's book is a rare treat, and is offered as a gift to the first person to write, enclosing a doctor's note confirming acute insomnia. Provided, that is, we can rescue it from the bin.

THE National Pensioners' Convention seeks a national organiser, and those arriving for interview will swiftly be told the terms. The salary is £23,331, and the job comes with 30 days holiday a year. There is, however, no pension.



Dark deeds in secret places threaten the openness Blair always promised

Hugo Young



PROMISING more open government is the classic hymn of opposition. But nobody sang it more piously than Tony Blair and New Labour. In its way it was the issue that transcended all others, in that freedom of information, once enacted, would pervade everything the Blair Government did. It was the purest guarantee Labour offered that the defining conditions of late-period Conservatism — evasion, duplicity, unsupervised chaos — would be wiped away by a weird new set of values such as honesty, verification and informed debate.

Time, however, has passed, and the Opposition has become the Government. It was disappointing that the Freedom of Information statute was ditched from the parliamentary timetable for the first session. In 1992, after all, the Kincock Labour Party had a measure fully drafted, and pledged it as its very first Act. Last year's delay was explained away on the usual basis that there wasn't enough time and, besides, responsible ministers had to get it right. But time does funny things to governments, and certainly has to this one. Even the next session may be too soon. The first fine careless rapture has hardened into an ugly struggle.

Whitehall is engaged in a mighty argument about the limits of openness, and in particular about the power of anyone except a minister to decide what those limits should be. Leading for the realists, the anti-freedom faction, is the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. Ranged against him is the policy leader, David Clark, with Lord Chancellor Irvine alongside another strike for Irvine as a force for enlightenment.

In the outer ring, however, are a collection of ministers already feeling the weight of their 14 months in office. They are surrounded by civil servants whose occupational condition is anti-openness. The high priest, Robin Butler, has retired as Cabinet Secretary. But behind murmured assurances that the zeitgeist is changing, the evidence says otherwise. The voluntary code of practice which the Tories introduced continues, as the Ombudsman has complained, to attract every mandarin ingenuity in the discovery of reasons — often, he says, "time-consuming" and with "no real foundation" — why disclosure should not be made. But such cultural deformity pales beside that of ministers under fire. Can one really expect Robin Cook to be as zealously in favour of freedom of information now as he was 18 months ago?

The Government's good intentions mostly survived into Clark's white paper, though the exclusion of law enforcement matters was already ominous. Now the details of a Bill are being worked through, and the horror of what openness might mean is being met by a rear-guard action to impede it. Money, for one thing, has surfaced as an escape clause, with Straw arguing for a financial cap on the cost of particular disclosures, on the basis, as he told the cabinet committee, that parliamentary questions already cost far too much to answer. A range of impediments is likewise available by making F of I inquiries prohibitively expensive for the applicant.

But this is only the beginning of the test of good faith now under way. At the core of the present argument is who shall decide the hard cases. The white paper provides for an information commissioner to mediate disputes about what categories fall inside or outside the right to know. Within the exemptions the law lays down — the "harm" or "substantial harm" disclosure must not be allowed to do, as well as such matters as commercial confidence and policy advice — he it is who will draw lines through substantial grey areas.

The white paper gave this character a lot of power. There would be no appeal from him to the courts nor, more remarkably, could ministers override him. Unlike some other countries, New Labour Britain would close the door to such evasions. "We have considered this possibility," the paper said, "but decided against it, believing that a government veto would... erode public confidence in the Act." It is the full horror of such loss of control that is now exercising ministers, concerned that vast swathes of public information might escape the ultimate *raison d'être* they alone could bring to bear on its concealment.

THE commitment against a ministerial veto is so clear that it could hardly be wiped out at a stroke. So another way is under active debate: defining the commissioner's original powers so as to eliminate the need for a veto. If the law limits him to assessing a department's refusal merely on the grounds that it has behaved improperly or unreasonably — the analogy is with the courts and judicial review — all that's required is to ensure that the Freedom of Information statute sets wide limits on how departments should be expected to behave. It seems almost incredible,

given the depth of what Mr Blair alone was saying before the election, that any minister should be proposing something like this. If agreed, it would kill new openness stone dead. The commissioner would be reduced to a cypher, looking only at procedure rather than substance, and enabled to challenge the congressional secrets of the executive, whether political or official, only in the most flagrant cases — which any half-awake official would find it easy enough to avoid raising. Yet it's around this emasculation, floated by Straw with Treasury backing, that the fate of the great pledge is being contested.

Lower politics are also at work. Since David Clark is at shortest odds on everyone's list for the chop when the reshuffle happens, maybe his project is being undermined as a prelude. Weak man can't deliver, must go. This kind of ruthlessness may not be edifying, especially when it's a cover for the real agenda — project dangerous: man disposable. Kill two birds with one shaft. There's little evidence, moreover, that Peter Mandelson, should he be the replacement, has ever put open government, as promised in the white paper, high in his own priorities. Rather the reverse.

Ministers stand poised before a Rubicon of attitude. Are they about to cross to the other regions? Have they become irredeemably executive-minded, as fearful as every government before them of information-as-power? Has the clumsy hand already thrust their instinct for reform? The answer is being decided in the secret places. It will be definitive for the entire life and meaning of the Blair Government.

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China goes American

Isabel Hilton



WHEN President Clinton stood up to address the students of Beijing University (Beida) this week, he might have been mindful of what happened at the last big event on that campus, the celebration in May of the university's centenary. Beida has much to be proud of: it was from there that the students marched in May 1919 to protest against the granting of German concessions in China to Japan under the Versailles treaty. It was the first of the Chinese century's great civic protest movements. The students turned that outburst of nationalism into a set of demands for the political modernisation of China, most of which remain unfulfilled to this day. Sixty years later, in 1989, Beida students marched again, to Tiananmen Square.

The rollcall of former students of Beida who have been jailed or forced into exile is long and honourable: it includes the physicist Fang Lizhi and the dissident Wang Dan. Mindful perhaps, that Beida is a dangerous place for government ceremonial, the authorities prepared for the centenary celebrations with the precautionary arrest of Wang Youcai, a former student leader at Beida. Five former fellow students — Li Hal, Hu Shigen, Lu Zhishao, Guo Haifeng and Li Baiguang were already in prison for their political views.

THERE are many such ghosts at Beida, figures expunged by varying degrees of force from the rollcall of those deemed worthy to attend an official occasion. But there were questions from a generation that is growing up in a China almost stripped of the stifling ideological control that has formed a barrier to intellectual curiosity for the last half-century. President Clinton was speaking to a generation that knows more about the United States and is better disposed towards it than any previous generation in Chinese history.

They are the generation that takes McDonalds for granted, that watches American films, buys American fashion and applies to study in American universities. When they return, they may bring more than just their degrees. They bring an understanding that, however many individuals President Jiang Zemin's security services look up for demanding political change, history is on the side of the young. To them, President Clinton's appearance in their midst, for its style as much as its substance, represents the future.

This is the longest single

country visit President Clinton has ever undertaken and the scale of the affair is a measure of its importance to both sides. But both presidents are negotiating from positions of weakness. President Clinton's coverage at home has been clouded by allegations of impropriety in missile technology transfer to China and suggestions that Beijing has tried to pour money into Democratic coffers. He is under fire from a Congress that finds his policy of engagement a soft political target, and he is vulnerable to the charge of having paid so little attention to Asia that a full blown nuclear arms race — in which India's fear of China played a substantial part — was allowed to develop without, apparently, Washington having done anything to prevent it.

Jiang Zemin, on the other hand, is sitting on a Communist Party that is rotting away beneath him. Even party members — the younger generation at least — now talk of the need for democratic change in almost the same terms as the party's external critics. The visit has produced little of substance at the level of summit diplomacy since neither president has much to offer the other. The Chinese would like the United States to stop selling arms to Taiwan, but yesterday's restatement by President Clinton that the US would not support UN membership for Taiwan is as far as Clinton can go without provoking his own Congress to fury.

The US would like China to stop arms sales to Iran and nuclear exports to Pakistan, but have won no more than vague statements of virtue. China will still have to submit to the annual review of Most Favoured Nation status and Chinese membership of the WTO remains subject to fractious negotiation.

So far, not much change, de-

Jiang Zemin is sitting on a Communist Party that is rotting away

spite the lush chords of the mood music. But the real change in China is coming from below, with the penetration of global culture and the collapse of the party's ideological control. Hong Kong has played its part in this: as Jiang Zemin flew in to celebrate the first anniversary of the handover, it must have been obvious to him that the future lies in China's growing to resemble Hong Kong not in Hong Kong's shrinking to a small and miserable version of China.

Jiang Zemin's model of fast economic development hand in hand with authoritarian politics is under threat, but it is not Bill Clinton who will bring it down. Changes will come from the new Chinese generations who are growing up with a contempt for the state ideology that Jiang affects to embrace, and an impatience with a corrupt ruling clique whose time is long past.

Losing in the World Cup was a melodrama starring two reformed alcoholics and a petulant 23-year-old millionaire

Forever England

Mark Lawson

IT IS always difficult to explain the point of sport to those who do not like it. Non-aficionados will never be persuaded to take pleasure from ball skills or pace.

But the level at which sport can be understood by anyone is as story: as a narrative which must build to a decisive climax and in which character is revealed through actions.

In this sense, England v Argentina was one of the greatest stories ever told. The narrative of the match was full of symbolic repetitions and the working out of personal flaws, the explosive resolution of possibilities developed in earlier scenes. It is the unusually perfect curve of the story which explains why the experience of having watched it made a deeper impact on the mind and psyche than mere resentment at another defeat or denting of national pride.

Consider these examples of plotting which a screenwriter might have rejected as schematic. For the last year, the England coach Glen Hoddle has been publicly warning David Beckham about his petulant behaviour on the pitch. Beckham, in turn, has been complaining about the level of media harassment he suffered because of his own celebrity and involvement with a Spice Girl.

In a theatre, audiences would have known that these nudging Act One scenes were setting up the outcome. In football, there was always the possibility that Hoddle was simply being neurotic and Beckham a bit precious. Yet, with Shakespearean perfection, when it came to Act V on Tuesday, Beckham's temper led inexorably to his own and England's downfall. Now, in the next few weeks, he and Posh Spice will find out what

media harassment really means. In sport, as in drama, character was destiny. With the next dramatic theme, the model shifted from the model of the reformed alcoholic. Two recovering alcoholics played for England on Tuesday night: Tony Adams and Paul Merson. An added tension in the extraordinary

In this sense, the match was one of the greatest stories ever told

final stages of the game was the dread that the defensive error or missed penalty when it came might involve one of these two courageous men. For them, the failure might have genuinely tragic consequences on their resolve. But, for them, the ending was, to

general relief, the one that Hollywood would have chosen. Adams was impenetrable in defence. Merson converted his penalty. And so, within a few minutes, the match was over. There were two happy endings.

And, finally, there was an off-stage moment of dramatic perfection. Paul Gascoigne — the footballer who had tested the boundaries of genre by combining tragic hero with clown — was spotted travelling on a train on Tuesday evening, thus making himself one of the few men in England not watching the match.

One aspect of the action remains hazy. Looking at the script of this Sudden Death III, a producer or script doctor would surely object: "I don't understand why they always miss the penalties at the end. That pay-off needs to be explained." How can it be explained? You begin to wonder whether the accusatory history of the tabloids, the

national game of scapegoating, puts ruinous pressure on some England players when they step up to the spot.

What was most impressive about this sporting narrative, however, was that it resisted any attempts to turn it into a patriotic tableau, an athletic

remake of *In Which We Serve*. The power of this performance was its departure from national traditions. In Latin American style, Hoddle's team moved the ball forward even in adversity. And the depleted team's impressive stamina was a result of

the training and fuelling methods Hoddle learned on the continent: his assault on the English footballer's cult of drinking. Indeed, if this sporting masterpiece had a moral, it was not Dunkirk Spirit but the positive influence of Europe.

The literary model of tragedy does not precisely work for this production. No one died. And, not only were the participants left standing at the end, but most are millionaires. At least four of England's losers — Owen, Campbell, Anderson and Scholes — have vastly increased their earning power in this failed campaign. But, otherwise, there was everything a story needs. Michael Billington expressed regret in this newspaper this week that the World Cup had reduced audiences for a seven-and-a-half hour Dostoevsky adaptation. But the empty seats were symbolic. Theatre could not compete with this.



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Towering achievement

Yet the NHS needs cash

TONY Blair addresses 3,500 national and international delegates to the National Health Service's 50th birthday party today. Its timing is fortunate for both Labour and the NHS. A New Labour government can remind the public of an Old Labour triumph. No public institution has ever been so popular. It has stood the test of time. Its main structure — tax-based, professionally defined need, and centrally controlled — remains unchanged. It has been described by one American academic as "the finest bit of social legislation since Magna Carta". Sir George Godber, the country's most famous chief medical officer, had a ready reply: "Unlike Magna Carta, it has been for all the people and not for some latter-day barons. It is imperfect, has included many mistakes and often achieved less than one hoped it would. Yet it has achieved more for the resources invested in it than any of the numerous services I know."

The timing for the NHS is fortunate too. The service is suffering from a cyclical crisis: a shortage of cash. Labour is just completing its comprehensive spending review for the next three years — to decide how much departments will get until the end of this parliament. By the end of the first two years of this government, Labour will have spent less on the service than its Tory predecessors averaged through the 1990s. The NHS has been squeezed and hurt. No amount of spin doctoring has duped either the professionals or the public. Where

once health was Labour's strongest card with an almost unbelievable lead over the Conservatives in polls measuring public confidence, it has now fallen to sixth position. Only a large injection of cash will redeem Labour's reputation and resolve the health service's problems.

The main focus of this week's conference is the next 20 years of the NHS. How much Labour is ready to invest is a crucial part of this debate. A tax-based system is the cheapest and fairest way of funding health care but has one serious defect: persuading politicians to raise the necessary taxes. Yesterday John Willman, a former general secretary of the Fabian Society, argued in a special Guardian Society section on the NHS that introducing charges could make the system more equal by using the extra money to fund the treatments patients at present have to use the private sector to obtain. We are three times as rich as we were 50 years ago. A society in which the average household pays £300 a year on pet food and £700 on TV, video, hi-fi and other forms of entertainment, should be able to afford £10 a visit to a doctor. Sweden, which charges for visits to doctors, suffers smaller inequalities than the UK.

We are not persuaded. We believe charges would only encourage the Treasury to reduce the current amount of resources given to health and deter some poor people from turning to their local doctor. Yet Willman is right to say the current system is unsustainable: an NHS which continues to provide excellent clinical treatment but frequently in facilities which would cause a riot if experienced on a package holiday: shabby rooms, peeling paint, grimy grey corridors, and dreadful food. Some commentators believe a future government will devolve health to the regions or local government — where it already resides in

Scandinavia — to duck the ever more overt rationing issues facing health ministers. Some GPs fear Labour's primary care proposals in which 500 groups of family doctors will become the main commissioning bodies for healthcare, is a subtle move to switch rationing decisions from the centre to the periphery. All these fears could be scotched by the Prime Minister today. What's needed is a public commitment guaranteeing the NHS real growth of at least 3 per cent.

Japan refiles

But will people spend?

JAPAN seems set to announce tax cuts worth around \$29 billion for next year — though it is not clear whether they will be enough to boost its flagging economy. The effect of recent economic packages has been like ordering from a Japanese menu — lots of numbers but at the end they don't add up to much quantitatively speaking. The mooted cuts (in residential and income taxes) are not large compared with the size of Japan's economy. More important, they include some cuts already announced and must be judged against the backdrop of a five-year plan of tax increases, the first of which was implemented last year. At the very moment Japan needed people to start spending to boost a fast declining economy, taxes were raised throwing the economy into an unnecessarily severe recession.

If Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party had lowered taxes last year it might have done the trick. But now consumers are worried stiff about rising unemployment and declining output, and are almost obsessed with the need to save for their underfunded retirements. So, they may decide to put the income from tax cuts under

their pillows or invest it abroad to get a higher return (thereby depressing the value of the yen still further). If Japan wants to stem its slide into recession (which would ricochet through Asia) it will need a loose fiscal and permissive monetary policy to pull it out of a tailspin. In the first quarter, the economy contracted by 5.3 per cent a year.

This has long ceased to be a problem for Japan alone because another fall in the yen could wreak fresh havoc in East Asia and force China to devalue — with all that that implies for fresh economic turbulence in the region and the rest of the world. President Clinton's charm offensive with China (received with mixed feelings in Japan, which sees its own special relationship with the US at risk) is partly an attempt to prevent China from devaluing its way out of trouble. Japan's fears, which are probably ungrounded, would die away once normal economic growth is resumed. But when that will happen is anyone's guess. It will partly depend on when Japan recovers its self-confidence as a nation. Above all, the self-confidence to go out and spend.

England's defeat

It was only a (great) game

ARE THE English so insecure these days that they need to read great tropes of national identity and fortune into the accidents of a single sporting contest? What happened in St Etienne the other night was a football game not an exhibition of runes or the unfolding of manifest destiny. Exciting, engrossing, a great game with a goal that will live in the collective memory — yes, but not, please, any kind of metaphor for the fate of a hugely diverse country.

There's something odd about the hunger to over-interpret the event, to lard with deep significances the players and their foibles and the exigencies of play. Despite those pictures of thoroughfares deserted at 8pm, only a minority of English people follow football and only a tiny handful play the game. We mustn't confuse the sociological observation that people have a need for common symbols and shared points of reference (the function after all, of *The Archers*) with some wild equation of national character and prowess in this sport during this competition on that evening.

Alan Shearer's side (all male, all young, non-graduate) does not personify the country. Michael Owen is not *pace* Prime Minister Blair, the great white hope of the nation's youth, if only because there will be lots of 18-year olds who find his haircut and goody-two shoes image repellent. Ditto David Beckham. A foul for which he got condign punishment should not be an occasion for national purgation. Goalmouth incidents are just that. Missed penalties are meaningless.

Tuesday's contest does have demonstration value, but it lies firmly inside the sporting arena. Perhaps it says that doom-mongers were wrong about the incompatibility of Premiership schedules and international competition, perhaps merely that England has become a good second-rank side, and there's no shame in that. Saloons and sitting rooms (and wine bars and dinner tables) will rebound for weeks with the specifics of the match, Hoddle's competence, Batty's lack of preparedness for spot kicks, the judgment of the match officials. For now let's sit back and watch the world's premier sides go to work, secure in the knowledge that England's absence says nothing, precisely nothing, about this country's social, economic or political capacity.

Letters to the Editor

Twitchy about sexist titles

I WAS intrigued to see that the old chestnut about different titles for male and female professions is still on the boil, this time in France (New linguistic order for women, July 1). I was also mystified as to how this contributes to equality for women. Surely the insistence on different titles for people of different sexes doing the same job is the exact opposite effect? What if this were to be extended to religion or race? Are Jewish people to stamp their CVs with a prominent "J"? Are white toilet cleaners henceforth to be known as melanically challenged hygienic operators? Merde, I say. If you program a computer, you are a computer programmer and that's the end of it. Elliott Bignell, Basel, Switzerland.

THERE is one very simple expedient which might help defuse the proposed Drummer march — a decision by the local Church of Ireland parish church to cancel the service in the interests of community harmony. Rev Paul Flowers, Bridlington, E Yorks.

PERHAPS the reason the Daily Telegraph picked "a strange high point" from George Orwell's writing is because of one of his great maxims, which that newspaper must have studiously avoided and Mark Steel, judging by the rest of his article (July 1), is unaware of. "Some things are true even when the Daily Telegraph says they are true." Frank Desmond, London.

YOU need not fret at the decline in transmitters (Letters, July 1). They are all alive and well: these days they "collect" birds and call themselves twitchers. Paul Larkin, Gravesend, Kent.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10.

Vindaloo or bad korma?

THE early penalties in the England-Argentina game appeared to be based on poor refereeing. It's puzzling that such crucial decisions are based on a one-shot observation when there is sufficient technology now to permit questionable decisions to be relayed to a team of off-pitch referees who can peruse a replay and give a more informed decision. Careful use of the technology could make the game much fairer in critical situations, such as penalties. The disruption to the game of cricket from its use appears minimal. Charlie Frowd, Stirling.

GLENN Hoddle is still regarded by some commentators as England's best coach. Not by me. Why, with a penalty shoot-out looming and spot kick specialists like Ferdinand and McManaman fretting on the bench, did our wonder coach not use his full quota of substitutes to maximise his fire-power in the dying seconds of extra time? Terry Rand, London.

HODDLE doesn't blame David Beckham's silly sending-off foul for England's defeat but criticises the referee instead. In Hoddle's world, we presumably do not blame criminals for crime, but the police for not apprehending them. Trevor Chambers, Bridport, Dorset.

FORGET the hype, foul play lost us the match. Alan Shearer elbowing the goalkeeper and the spoilt-child antics of David Beckham —

both fairly dealt with by the referee. A good example of justice for our youth and hard luck on David and Betty. Keith Boye, Hawkesbury Upton, Glos.

HEAR Manchester United are going to pay \$2m for the services of David Beckham next year. I wouldn't give top prizes for him. Peter McCarthy, Weymouth.

BEFORE the tabloid press launch into their crucifixion of David Beckham, it is worth noting that last week they were at the forefront of the campaign to get him into the team, forcing Glenn Hoddle to override his instincts that the player was not yet ready for the pressures of international football. Perhaps if they had left team selection to the man charged with the job, things might have turned out differently. Was it "the Sun" who lost it? Michael Crapper, London.

BECKHAM's outburst was completely unacceptable. Professional footballers must maintain control, no matter how severely provoked. Those who manage this are the real professionals. Owen and Shearer both illustrated it throughout the game. Julia Hamilton, Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear.

NOW that Saint Michael may well have cheated to gain a penalty, could the English please stop whingeing about Maradona in '86. G H Mackay, Lochliver, Sutherland.

HAND of God 1986 — Devil's Hoof in 1998? Jim Beek, Sheffield.

IN years to come we will speak not of the "Hand of God", but of the "Moof of Kev". As the game reached its crucial point, Brian Moore turned to his expert summariser and asked the vital question: "Will he score?" As David Batty ran in, Kevin Keegan — who famously assured the nation in the England-Romania game that "only one team can win the game now" — replied with an emphatic "Yes." The rest is, as they say, history. Martin E Crookall, Stockport.

IT'S all quite simple. England played four matches, won two and lost two. The two we won were broadcast by the BBC, the two we lost by ITV. Ian Cridland, Wokingham, Berks.

LOSING in two World Cups was a European Championship on penalties just hardens our ossified upper lips. At the "end of the day", we may be "sick as parrots" but we do defeat very well — what would we do if we actually won anything? Nick Smith, London.

ANY chance of penalties Carrington? Laurie Margolis, London.

VINDALOO? Phail, more like. Peter D Jones, Brighton.



Shaw's ambiguous Major Barbara

RE Paul Foot's exhilarating polemic on the impotence of Government ministers' "outrage" at aspects of private enterprise (Furious and seething, June 30), there is a footnote to his splendid quotation from Major Barbara. As a description of capitalism's exercise of real power over government, Andrew Undershaft's speech can hardly be improved on. But there have always been troublesome ambiguities about the play's ending. Major Barbara, after her stirring resolve to act and not merely to chatter (is that incidentally the origin of "the chattering classes"?), marches into the Un-

dershaft works, Death and Destruction Ltd. This paradoxical but highly effective curtain has generally been taken as a revolutionary's declaration about the use of force to destroy capitalism, her terrible parent. But in the last line of the play, her entry is complacently accepted by Undershaft himself: "If you can't beat 'em join 'em." New Labour's true, if unspoken slogan, is often a very sensible course of action. It means accepting defeat before you start — and endless hypocrisy and lies. Christopher Small, Edinburgh.

Of racist thugs

AS someone who lost almost an entire family in the Holocaust I have felt the deepest sympathy for the Lawrence family. It was, therefore, with some dismay that I read that the Nation of Islam had turned up to offer support at the Lawrence inquiry. Their American leader, Louis Farrakhan, is guilty of the kind of vicious abuse against Jewish people which the Lawrences are fighting to stop being used against black people. I find this involvement both sad and ironic. Martha Blend, London.

PAUL Hackett's superb photograph (June 30) of the vicious, contorted faces of the five racist thugs accused of Stephen Lawrence's murder exposes them more clearly than any questioning could do. Pauline Cade, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Sold short

IT is indeed sad to see the currency markets once again circling the skies above another hapless victim (Leader, June 30) but to some of us these events are not unexpected. In November 1991, President Nelson Mandela and the vice-chancellors of three South African universities established the Macro-economic Research Group to advise the ANC on future economic policies. After two years of extremely thorough and independently corroborated research, the MERG offered a number of mildly Keynesian policy options which included a gradual approach to the convertibility of the rand and an emphasis on the need to create employment. Unfortunately, the ANC leadership, beguiled by advisers from the World Bank and IMF (the boys who spent years extolling the virtues of the economic policies of the Asian tigers), binned the MERG report as soon as it was published. As soon as the rand became vulnerable to speculators, the South African government had to dance to the speculators' tune on the promise that the non-interventionist "reforms" would encourage the inward flow of billions of dollars of investments. But whatever they did was never quite enough. The hoped-for investment has never materialised, unemployment has remained depressingly high and crime rates have soared. Those who live by monetarist policies must expect to die by them. It's a lesson which could be learned by those closer to home. Peter Robbins, London.

Down among the women Fay Weldon has betrayed

I WAS raped almost three years ago (Fay Weldon the fool, July 1). Not by anyone I knew, but by a total stranger. I was beaten up, my left nipple was bitten off, I was pushed face down on to broken glass and sodomised. My attacker had also raped five other women, and for all six offences received seven years in prison — with parole he will be out in five. He will not receive any treatment, and when he is released he will be free to rape again. I suffer recurrent, terrifying nightmares, and am still having psychotherapy in order to control the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. My sentence is for life. I am unable

to go out at night alone — and only went out with others two years after the attack. I have had plastic surgery, and am taking tranquillisers and antidepressants.

For the rest of my life I will not feel safe in the dark, or when I am alone. If anyone approaches me from behind, I am paralysed with fear. An innocent arm around the shoulder or peck on the cheek can cause me to freeze in panic. For the rest of my life the smell of stale whisky mixed with body odour and cigarette smoke will make me vomit.

I am one of the lucky ones: I have a fantastic family, and the most understanding, supportive and tolerant of partners.

whom I trust implicitly and who understands the ups and downs of my "recovery". What recovery?

Until society in general, and men in particular, accept that acts of sexual violence are not only life-threatening, but life-altering, personality-changing and confidence-shattering, and ensures that the sentence fits the crime, women do not stand a chance within the confines of the British judicial system. Take it from one who knows. S Cooper, Hants.

IT is amusing to hear that Fay Weldon (Novelist wants rape 'degraded', June 30) does not think it possible to sleep in

the same bed as a man "because it is inevitable that he will get an erection". Not all men have sex on the brain. Her view of men seems to be stuck in the 1950s. It's nearly the second millennium. New feminists like myself believe men are aspiring to qualities which have been repressed by a macho, patriarchal society: emotion and loving, caring relationships.

But men will always rape if they're under the impression their heinous crime will only be considered "aggravated assault". How does Weldon interpret "aggravated"? The wearing of a short skirt? K Hoole, Cambridge.

REDUCING the punishment for rape significantly reduces how people regard the seriousness of the crime and rape is the most serious crime against women. Ms Weldon is not in the "next stage of feminism" — she has simply been drawn into the present backlash against feminism. Her constant attempts to be controversial are very sad. Abbie Sampson, Canterbury.

YOUR columnist Julie Burchill recently regretted the absence of any term equivalent to Uncle Tom to describe women who collude with sexists to sell other women down the river. May I suggest the phrase Fay Weldon? Jean Calder, Brighton.

Punjab women not savages for believing in Sufi saint

RICHARD Galpin's article (The rat-children of Pakistan — blessed by a Sufi saint but disgraced for profit, June 29) shows Orientalist traditions are still alive. As a journalist, I researched this subject more than a decade ago and my first port of call was the families that gave up their first-borns to Shah Daula's shrine. For 300 years, with only recent abatement, people have been leaving their children to the Sufi saint. Yet Mr Galpin attributes the motives and beliefs behind this practice to "religious fervour" and "myths".

The women of Punjab are not heartless savages who, for want of education, are willing to abandon their children. Why did he not ask what would make a woman give up her first child, especially since she found it so hard to conceive in the first place? These women come to the saint after years of unsuccessful trying to conceive. Soon

after their visit to the shrine, they become pregnant and when the child emerges miraculously, they take it as a sign that the child belongs to the saint and that other healthy children will follow.

Over 300 years how many times has that happened? Have there been any tests on the children to determine how their disabilities came about? Does Mr Galpin have proof that the original "myth" was fabricated for financial gain? I believe in the "myth". We now know that stress during pregnancy can cause a mother to abort. Why is it so difficult to accept that a woman who believes strongly enough can influence the development of the foetus in her womb? I am exasperated at the way Western reporters dismiss the reasoning and beliefs of other cultures as being flawed. Values and beliefs do not exist in a moral vacuum. Syed Hamraz Ahsan, Wembley, Middx.

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Larger than life... as 'first daughter' of the Soviet Union, Galina Brezhneva became a symbol of the double standards of her father's regime

Galina Brezhneva

Passions of the tsarina

GALINA Brezhneva, who has died aged 69, epitomised the corruption of the Soviet aristocracy in the "era of stagnation" under the leadership of her father Leonid Ilych Brezhnev. She used her position as "first daughter" to indulge her passion for sex, circuses and diamonds and was, as the untouchable tsarina of Moscow's high-living *beau monde*, a subject for gossip among the elite.

It would be easy to dismiss Galina as a vain, foolish and essentially superficial figure within the communist elite, but she was also a figure to be pitied. Without a political role or the sense to acquire a job away from the Soviet *nomenklatura*, she was perhaps hardly more than a bored little rich girl whose fondness for gin and tonics turned into alcoholism and who became a victim of the anti-corruption campaigns of her father's successors. When, after Leonid Ilych's death in 1982, her connections could no longer protect her, she was arrested as part of an anti-corruption drive but never charged. She had her privileges gradually removed, watched her courtiers either imprisoned or commit suicide, and saw articles about her promiscuity, avarice and alcoholism splashed across the glasnost-era press. She became a symbol for all that had been wrong with the double standards of Brezhnev's Soviet Union.

Galina was the eldest daughter of Leonid, then a worker in the Ukraine, and a nurse, Victoria, from Kursk. By the time Galina was two, her father had joined the Communist Party. A wilful teenager with dreams of being an actress, she entered the Pedagogical Institute in Dnepropetrovsk to study literature. There, stories of her promiscuity attracted the attention of her teachers. When her father became First Secretary of the Moldovian Communist Party in 1950, Galina transferred to Kiev University to study philology. The scandals continued and



Brezhnev was furious when his daughter married a conjuror in the Crimea, and sent a plane to have her bundled back to Moscow under virtual house-arrest

him she did not see her parents for a year. She returned only to present herself as a daughter, Victoria, who was brought up by her grandmother. Despite his background, her parents evidently liked Milayev, taking his side in numerous marital arguments caused by her unfaithfulness. When they divorced in 1960, he took his daughter on a state visit to Yugoslavia. Her behaviour and clothes caused a scandal and she never accompanied Leonid Ilych abroad again.

Galina's second marriage to Igor Kio, a 20-year-old conjuror, whom she met and mar-

ried in the Crimea. Brezhnev was furious and sent a military plane to have her bundled back to Moscow and put her under virtual house-arrest. He arranged for Kio to be issued with new papers which made no mention of his marriage.

She was sent to the prestigious Institute of Foreign Languages to get a degree, but even in Moscow, Galina was playing the field, including a very public affair with the ballet dancer Marius Liepa. Her father apparently gave her an ultimatum: if she wanted her own flat she had to find a husband. Brezhnev

connections for political advantage, Galina indulged in her most public and damaging affair. Her lover, Boris Buravskiy, known as Boris the Gypsy, shared Galina's tastes. Together and apart they scandalised Moscow. Galina got the bisexual Boris a job at the Bolshoi. Rumours of orgies and voyeuristic lesbian and homosexual acts spread round Moscow, but more damaging than her sexual exploits were stories about her involvement in black marketeering and a diamond fraud.

One of the many stories told about her helping herself to trinkets and treasures concerned a trip to Georgia. In the town of Zugdidi, Galina took a fancy to an antique tiara in the local museum which had belonged to Tamara, a former Georgian queen. When she asked to be given it as a present, the museum director telephoned Edward Shevardnadze, Georgian Communist Party chief, who contacted Brezhnev to explain that he couldn't give away the nation's heritage. Brezhnev told him to send his daughter home.

But it was diamonds that the couple really coveted. Although there was no internal market for precious jewels within the Soviet Union, they were bought mainly for the scrap value of their settings. Galina knew people who had antique jewellery and, through her and Boris's connections, they could be smuggled abroad for hard currency. Galina also supposedly used her inside knowledge to buy up diamonds just before the price on them was raised.

When Galina, already overweight and with a face puffy from alcohol, couldn't hold on to Boris through love, she used presents and threats to keep him; in turn needed her to protect him and his black-market dealings from the KGB. But by the late 1970s, as Brezhnev's health deteriorated and Yuri Andropov's KGB began circling around the old guard, waiting to pounce, the relationship

With her husband more interested in exploiting his con-

ing to Irina Bugrimova, a lion tamer. She had upstaged Galina with her gems at a circus gala and left the first daughter reportedly enraged. Whether Boris stole to appease his lover or to fund his escape to the West is uncertain, or even whether he stole them at all. It was rumoured that Churbanov had finally taken his revenge against his wife's lover and set Boris up. At any rate, Boris died, either during his prison sentence or after his release.

Once her father died, Galina was easy prey for his successor, Andropov. At Brezhnev's funeral, Andropov expressed his condolences to the widow, but ignored Galina. She laid low, watching as her friends were picked off, shot themselves or jumped out of windows to escape arrest. Her flat was searched on several occasions but no trace of the fabious boxes of jewels and foreign currency was found. When Andropov died and was replaced with the senile Konstantin Chernenko, Galina briefly reappeared at public events, including international women's day in 1984.

Gorbachev signalled the end of her lavish life. First her privileged access to special shops and her pension were removed. She moved to a dacha outside Moscow, went to a clinic for treatment for her drinking but was not cured. Eventually she sold most of her jewellery and clothes to pay for drink, and when she was "rediscovered" by western journalists in the early 1990s would happily talk as long as they brought a few bottles to the interview. She still had her maid and the air of a gracious society hostess but now she was grey-haired, vastly overweight and resembled her father. In 1994 she was married for the first time, to a 28-year-old businessman. She claimed that love had cured her of drinking.

She is survived by her daughter and mother.

Isobel Montgomery

Galina Brezhneva, born 1929; died June 30, 1998

Paul Stirling

Understanding the real world outside

PAUL Stirling, who has died aged 77, was in that group of post-war social anthropologists which first undertook serious fieldwork in the Mediterranean basin. Like his peers, he was "pitched into fields which had histories", and the theoretical significance of this for anthropology was to be radical. His monograph *Turkish Village* (1955), was a model of lucidity, and was to revolutionise the study of the Turkish countryside. In turn, Stirling was to contribute to the establishment of Mediterranean anthropology in the next generation, supervising the research of, among others, the philosopher and anthropologist Ernest Gellner and John Davis, now Warden of All Souls. He was an influential figure for young Turkish social scientists, of whom he trained a good many, and was visiting professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara between 1963-66.

Born in Coulsdon, Surrey, Stirling read philosophy and classics at Oxford University and went on to study social anthropology with Edward Evans-Pritchard. After his doctorate, he moved to the London School of Economics to work with Raymond Firth, and in 1965 was appointed to a foundation professorship at the then new University of Kent at Canterbury, where he remained after his official retirement in 1980.

From philosophy, Stirling had acquired a passionate interest in causality and the role of knowledge in social systems; from Evans-Pritchard he had learned the importance of history. His insistence that one could not identify causal links, and his acknowledgement of the formidable problems in doing so, made him equally sceptical of simple-minded scientism and post-modern approaches. He was, in essence, a proponent of interdisciplinarity and "the project of social science", though he was quick to recognise the limitations of both. In addition to

his Turkish work, which developed into a classic longitudinal case study, he also worked in southern Italy on land reform.

His academic interest in social change was never purely academic. It translated, almost instinctively, into a concern for applied anthropology. Though not a career development consultant, he insisted on forging links between policy makers, planners and anthropologists, even when it was politically incorrect to do so. He was the energy and moral presence behind the



Stirling... humane vision

professionalisation of applied anthropology in the UK, founding the Group for Anthropology in Policy and Practice (GAPP) in the early 1980s and overseeing its transformation in 1988 into the British Association for Anthropology in Policy and Practice.

Stirling was not a natural when it came to the new technologies of scholarship, but his sound judgment of their potential curiously placed him in the vanguard. His films for the Open University were exemplary of their kind, not aesthetically modulated "ethnographic films", but an extremely effective use of the medium to produce clear pedagogic instruments. He had, in the early 1970s, collaborated with Marie Corbin on the computer analysis of cen-

sus materials; and after he retired, worked increasingly closely with Michael Fischer at Kent on the Stirling CD-Rom.

As a founding father of the University of Kent, Stirling was in the enviable position of being able to more-or-less create sociology and anthropology in his own image. Indeed, his vision of humane, sceptical and empirically-based inquiry shaped the subjects as they developed at that institution. Full of doubts about his own research and writing, he was a conscientious intellectual and personal mentor to his junior staff. The intellectual range of those who admired him and were influenced by him is well attested by the list of contributors to his festschrift, *When History Accelerates*, in 1994.

Most colleagues will remember Stirling's last years through his unstinting and generous support of young research and overseas students. He always found time for others, and was concerned about the training and employment of his younger colleagues. Always a healthy sceptical presence in seminars, he condemned dogmatism of all kinds and was a fully paid up member of the awkward squad. More than anything else perhaps, he constantly reminded us that there was a real world outside the academy. He was the most tolerant of persons, except when it came to bureaucracy, intellectual shoddiness and oppression.

Characteristically, he had been active until the last minute, organising a seminar series in Canterbury, making plans with a Turkish colleague for the completion of an electronic archive of his work.

Paul Stirling is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their children Nick, Simon, Cathie and Elizabeth.

Roy Ellen

(Arthur) Paul Stirling, social anthropologist, born October 13, 1920; died June 17, 1998

Letters

Angus Macmillan writes: To have studied with one of the world's greatest medievalists is a privilege granted to few and it is hard to describe the profound effect and lasting influence that Sir Derek Colledge's Professor Michael Wilks (*obituary June 24*) had on those of us fortunate enough to have been students of his in the early 1970s. He never seemed rushed or impatient and would listen attentively to everything we had to say. He was a gentle but incisive probing, force to produce an argument way beyond that which we would

normally have considered within our intellectual capability. His knowledge of his subject and in particular Thomas Aquinas was awe-inspiring. His lectures were always packed — and with students from all the other London colleges.

Brian Dymov writes: That quality, not fashion was the watchword of Benny Green (*obituary June 24*) was exemplified for me when he was asked by Stuart Hall about Johnny Mathis. "Good singer — but second division," said Green. Hall asked who was in Green's first division. "Frank Sinatra, Frank Sinatra and Frank Sinatra." Nothing to

stop us hoping that the pair of them are merely taking five.

Wendie Gray writes: I was introduced to Benny Green by assistant Harry Klein, and we were soon conversing like old friends. I met him again at an Oscar Peterson TV show at what had been the Shepherds Bush Empire, which led inevitably to talk of the music hall and Max Miller. Our last meeting was in Waitrose and his parting words were: "I met Les Condon here two weeks ago. It's obviously got something that attracts the jazzers." What a great, gifted man, and a credit to the jazz scene. Sunday afternoons on Radio 2 will never be the same.

RAY COLLIER

A Country Diary

NORTH KESSOCK: In contrast to the early days of the red kite re-introduction programme when the location of birds, let alone their nests, was a closely guarded secret — it is interesting to be sent a leaflet from the RSPB that says, in English and Gaelic, "Welcome to the Red Kite Country", namely the Black Isle north of Inverness. Highlight of the red kite route shown on a map in the leaflet is the North Kessock Tourist Information Centre, where visitors the chance to see live pictures from a red kite nest.

We saw an adult feeding a small bird to a healthy looking chick and it was surprising to see how the adult fed so gently to its offspring. On a second screen two chicks were feeding themselves on the remains of a dead rabbit, flamed at sunset near earlier this year. The first breeding from this programme was in 1992, when a two-year-old pair reared a single chick, the first to fledge from a Scottish nest this century. Since then steady progress has been made and last year there were an unprecedented 23 breeding

pairs, and the number of chicks reared in Scottish nests rose to 126. Fortunately egg collectors have not been a problem, especially as many farmers and landowners guard "their" nests; but in 1977 five of the birds were killed by poisoning. Once visitors have been to the centre they are encouraged to take the red kite route round the Black Isle, where there is every chance of seeing one of these birds, famed for what the leaflet calls "its stunning rusty-red forked tail and long elegant wings".

RAY COLLIER

Ayatollah Ali al-Gharawi

Cost of standing up to Saddam

THE Iraqi Shia leader Ayatollah Ali al-Gharawi, who has been assassinated, aged 67, in southern Iraq, was one of the most renowned scholars in the ancient university city of Najaf. He was a strong future candidate for the supreme spiritual leadership of the world's 150 million Shia Muslims, a position the Iraqi government has attempted to control since the Gulf war.

Al-Gharawi's murder comes less than two months after the shooting of Ayatollah Murtada Burujerdi in Najaf. Both men had been threatened by government officials following their attempts to stand independently of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's policy towards the Shia majority in Iraq.

Al-Gharawi was born in Najaf in 1931. His father, a merchant, died when he was only two years old, so he was brought up by his mother Sayyida Fezza, the daughter

of a famous descendant of the Prophet, the scholar Sayyid Muhammad Usku'i. His mother's influence, and his own aptitude, meant that as a six-year-old he embarked upon a traditional education in Najaf with a view to becoming a religious scholar. From the age of 16 to 21 he studied in Qum under some of the most illustrious scholars of the day and completed his advanced studies at the oldest university in Shia Islam, at Najaf. His association with Najaf would continue until his death.

When still in his late twenties he was threatened by government officials following their attempts to stand independently of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's policy towards the Shia majority in Iraq.

By 1993 al-Gharawi had been acknowledged by the Iraqi Shia community as their leader. He had begun to make a name for himself with his charitable activities



Al-Gharawi... scholar

among the poor in sanctioned southern Iraq and also had followers in Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. That growing status put al-Gharawi's life at risk in Saddam's long-running attempt to destroy the Shia intellectual leadership in Iraq.

Al-Gharawi taught in Najaf until his death. He regularly led congregational prayers in

the sacred enclosure which contains the tomb of the first Shia Imam, Ali.

It was the continuance of this custom which led to threats from the government. Every Thursday he had made the 50-mile journey north to Karbala to pray there. While returning home to Najaf he and his companions died in a hail of bullets. No police investigation was initiated, with the authorities blaming "criminal foreign elements".

No funeral procession was allowed, nor any public mourning, and al-Gharawi's body was interred with indifference. The worldwide Shia community sees the assassination as the latest in a series of crimes planned and perpetrated by Iraqi intelligence. Like Burujerdi, al-Gharawi was an outstanding person and scholar, and was never involved in political activity. Looked up to with fierce loyalty by his beleaguered community, such figures are regarded with hostil-

ity by the regime, which has never succeeded in buying or coercing the people's allegiance.

The fate of such eminent figures has left the Shia community apprehensive about Najaf's remaining Shia religious scholars. Chief among them is Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani who, of all the Shia spiritual leaders, has the greatest number of followers worldwide, and who has effectively been under house arrest for three years. Clearly Saddam's government now feels itself secure enough to be able to assassinate figures of international standing without fear of reprisals, and with contempt for outside opinion.

Al-Gharawi is survived by his wife Batin Karamshahi, three sons, and five daughters.

Michael Wood

Mirza Ali al-Tabrizi al-Gharawi, scholar and jurist, born 1930; died June 16, 1998

Birthdays

Lord Beloff, historian, 85; Dr Hans Bethe, physicist, 92; Kenneth Clarke, MP, former Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, 58; Mary Craig, writer and broadcaster, 70; Lady Crawshaw, former chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission, Wales, 71; Sir Hugh Cudlipp, conservationist, 70; Nicholas Eames, ambassador to Luxembourg, 59; Jerry Hall, model, 42; Ian Irvine, chairman, Capital Radio, 62; Eva Lambert, artist, 85; Lord Mackay of Clashfern, former Lord Chancellor, 71; Dennis Marks, former general director, ENO, 50; Carlos Menem, president of Argentina, 68; Ferdinand Mount, editor, Times Literary Supplement, 58; Lord (David) Owen, former Foreign Secretary, 69; Sir Eleanore Prendergast, former ambassador to Turkey, 58; Lord Stelfox of Brimington, president, Marks & Spencer, 88; Lord (George) Simpson, chief executive, GEC, 56; Dr Maurice Slewin, oncologist, 49; Ann Taylor MP, leader of the Commons, 51; Elspeth Thomas, chairman, British Red Cross, St John Thompson, broadcaster, 70; Jon Trickett, Labour MP, 48.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A PANEL, headed The brains of Demos, Page 5, G2, June 30, Martin Jacques was said to have joined the Communist Party at the age of 14. He was 18. He was said to have lectured in economic and social history at Bristol for 10 years. He did it for six.

THE QUOTATION "Conrad and Casement's intense friendship in Africa was not just platonic" which appeared in the leader at the top of Page 20, June 27, was mistakenly attributed to Paul Burnett. The writer, who was the author of a letter which appeared elsewhere on the same page, was actually Paul Burnett. Apologies.

IN OUR review of *Justice of the Dagger* (Friday Review, June 26) we referred to Melvin Watson as the author. In fact, the book was written by James Watson. Apologies.

TRAINSPOTTING: In an article headed, Bad image takes its toll on trainspotting, Page 10, June 29, we said, "In 1982 more admirers turned up for the last run of a Delta diesel locomotive than for

any event in the heyday of steam." That should have been Deltic, not Delta.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 255 9559 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Send a self-addressed envelope to: The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 255 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

GLASSON, Reverend Doctor Thomas (1908-1998), peacefully on 25th June 1998, aged 89. Private cremation by Burial Ground, Wokingham, on 27th June at 12 noon followed by a tea at the Wokingham Club. Donations to St. John's Church, Wokingham, or to the Wokingham Diocesan Council, 10, Wokingham Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AA.

In Memoriam

PAL, Shoshana Rose, 30.10.26 - 02.07.97. Miss Rose, loving mother, wife, sister, friend. Born 1926, died 1997. Donations to the Jewish Community Centre, 10, Wokingham Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AA.

مكتبة القرآن

Analysis Hedgerows



Clinton and the new China

Battling to the last ditch

England's history is written in the countryside, but to farmers history is bunk. **Paul Brown** reports on government moves to save a rich heritage and a haven for wildlife

RENEWED battle begins today for the English hedgerow, and with it for the character of the countryside and the salvation of its wildlife. Campaigners hope it will be a turning point in a long war of attrition waged by farmers, landowners and developers against the hedgerow and its regional variants, the stone wall in the North and West of England and boundary dykes characteristic of East Anglia and the Somerset levels.

Such boundary markers are the skeleton on which the English countryside is hung. They shelter the birds, wild flowers, mammals, and tree species that make the countryside special. No English landscape is complete without some hedgerow, stone wall or ditch; they give our geography a context. Yet they continue to be demolished, grubbed up, filled in and obliterated at an alarming rate.

Today the latest in a long line of reports on how to save the 322,000 kilometers of hedgerow remaining emerges from the Working Party on the Hedgerow Regulations established last year by the Department of Environment. It was demanded by Michael Meacher, the environment minister, shortly after he took office. He wants it to strengthen existing law, which takes the form of an act passed last year, a minor miracle, the product of a huge consultation exercise, perhaps the biggest in 18 years of Tory government. It still safeguards only a fifth of England's hedgerows.

Successive attempts — based on two sets of Tory election promises — to bring in proper protection for the hedgerow were scuppered by the landowning and farming lobby. Its potency was reflected in the fact that even the law that finally passed put private profit above conservation as the overriding factor when local councils consider applications to destroy a hedge.

But the champions of the hedgerow have not given up. Concern about the countryside's emptiness has never been greater. The lack of songbirds, the disappearance of butterflies, and the endless boring mono-culture of East Anglia that makes suburban gardens the new haven of bio-

diversity have all provoked a backlash.

The law gives hedgerows protection if it can be shown they have a set of features that make them special. Along a 30-metre length they need to have more than seven different woody species if they are in the south (only five in the north where there is less bio-

Hedging bets

diversity). The number of species in a hedge is supposed to tell its age: the more, the older the hedge. On this measure some hedges are at least 2,000 years old, though this rule of thumb is out of favour with campaigners.

This official criterion is too narrow. Aren't the hedges of Arden in Warwickshire — formed of holly, an indispensable part of the character of that area — also special? Official definitions also exclude so-called Cornish hedges, earth stone banks with gorse tops. A quarter of the dykes in Cambridgeshire have disappeared since 1983; half of England's 112,000 kilometers of dry stone walls are derelict or not stockproof — yet none of these have legal protection.

The law recognises "special" features such as forming the boundary of a public footpath, or protecting rare species, but these have to be "found" within 42 days of an application to demolish. Urban hedges and those alongside people's gardens are excluded from protection even though they are often what the public values the most — especially as developers move further into the green belt. Perhaps the worst aspect of the limited protection afforded by the law is that the public is not consulted about whether hedges should be swept away. Local authorities have to decide on their own. Normally the first local people know about plans to remove hedges is when the bulldozers move in.

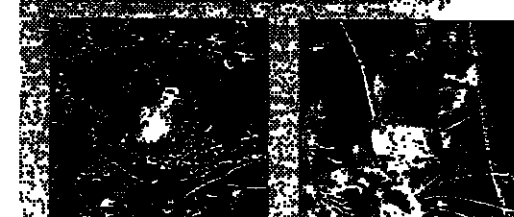
MUCH of the blame for the loss of the hedgerow is laid on the shoulders of the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But even such dinosaurs as the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food finally respond to public pressure. Reform of the subsidy system for farmers means that money is available in some areas for the conservation of such countryside features as stone walls, traditional hedge-laying and planting. Each one of these schemes is oversubscribed. Their success shows that given the right incentives even long-term trends can be reversed.

But our hedgerows are still in retreat. A new survey is being done to see how much has been lost since the last definitive count in 1983. Anecdotal evidence suggests that hundreds of extra miles were lost in the month or so before the new protection came into force last year. Again farmers were the culprits, fearing that their right to enlarge their fields into "commercial units" was being taken away.

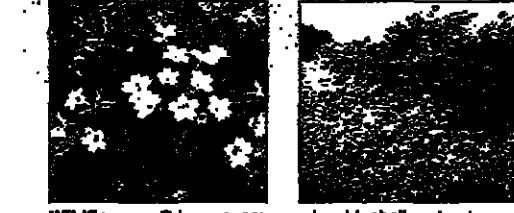
A new threat has emerged because of the BSE crisis. The traditional mixed farms of middle England, Wales and the West Country have been losing livestock and the land converted to larger arable fields. Many of the hedges had to go. This trend was illustrated last week when *Joe Prior* of Golden Valley in Herefordshire,

Teeming with life

Hedgerows provide a habitat for many species of wildlife, by reducing soil erosion and providing a refuge for insects and birds.



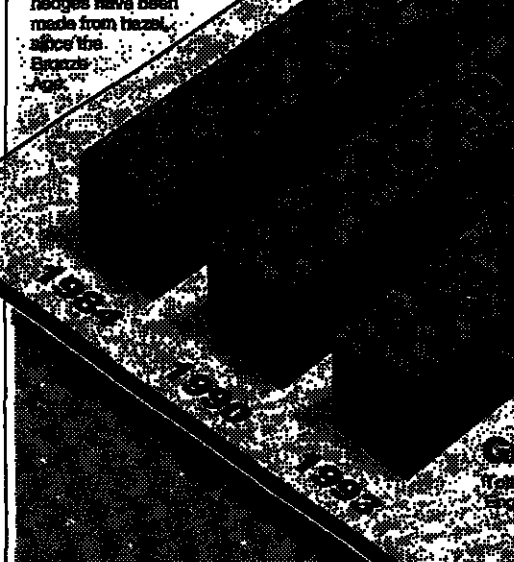
Birds of prey: In the wild there are 6-12,000 pairs of kestrels. Teeming with small mammals and insects, the hedge provides them with a major source of food.



Wildflowers: Primrose, cow parsley, bluebell and red campion flourish on the hedge bank. Source of food for insects, such as hoverflies, whose larvae feed on crop pests.



Hedgehog: Hedgerows contain 15% of the native stock of broad-leaved trees. Temporary hedges have been made from hazel, alder and willow.



Grubbing up: Hedgerows are being grubbed up at an estimated 100km per year.

was fined £2,000 with £4,000 costs by Leominster magistrates for grubbing up half a mile of medieval hedge. He wanted to plant potatoes on what was once pasture and the hedges were an inconvenience for modern machinery. That the legislation managed to catch anyone is a triumph. Only because this hedge dated back to the 14th century and was part of a well-recorded field system did it qualify for protection. A younger hedge — say a mere 150 years old — planted after the enclosure acts of the 18th century would not be regarded as sufficiently valuable to merit protection, even though it might, for many people, form an attractive and indispensable part of the landscape.

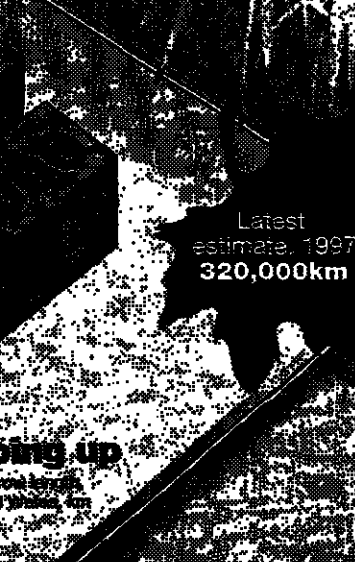
This is one of the reasons the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), which has been campaigning for the hedge for more than 20

Old as the hills

In the 18th century, the hedgerow was a rough boundary between fields. It was made of trees, shrubs and bushes in a 27 metre stretch, representing 100 years. This is only a guideline. There are many variations due to local conditions, and different regional hedgerow practices.



Shakes: With its own micro-climate, and rich in food, hedgerows are ideal for addens and grass snakes, who feed on the sunny, dry hedge banks.



Where the hedges are: A map of England showing the distribution of hedgerows by region.

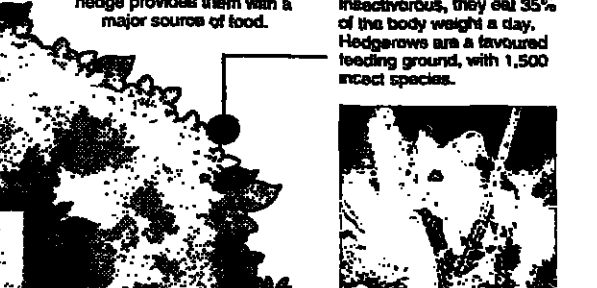
years, believes that the legislation should be much tougher. It's also partly to do with local authority cash and manpower — it's the council's job to survey a hedge in question and justify any order to retain it.

On present criteria, many lesser hedges, particularly those planted in the last 200 years, mainly of thorny species to keep the cows in, can be grubbed up. These include those the taxpayer has paid farmers to plant during the past decade.

No one is suggesting that hedges, a living thing, can be kept in perpetuity, but these examples of unprotected hedges show the anomalous nature of the law — let alone the way it excludes stone walls and dykes. Today's Working Party Report will point this out so let us hope that Labour will have the



Bats: 4,000 greater horseshoe bats. Largest populations are in Devon. Insectivorous, they eat 35% of the body weight a day. Hedgerows are a favoured feeding ground, with 1,500 insect species.



Mammals: 20 species. Most common are field mice, voles and shrews. Feeding on berries and insects, they in turn are prey to other mammals, such as foxes.



Shakes: With its own micro-climate, and rich in food, hedgerows are ideal for addens and grass snakes, who feed on the sunny, dry hedge banks.



Where the hedges are: A map of England showing the distribution of hedgerows by region.

Source: (1) Department of Environment: Hedgerow Regulations (1997); (2) CPRE: Evidence on special regional characteristics of hedgerows, 1998; (3) Department of Environment: Effect of agricultural practices on hedges 1997; (4) Ministry of Agriculture 1998. Graphics sources: English Nature; CPRE; British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; Institute of Terrestrial Ecology; Devon Hedge Group; RSPB. Graphics research: Matthew Keating. Paul Brown is our environment correspondent.

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FinanceGuardian

Nomura set to bid for Tote

Julia Finch

JAPANESE bank Nomura is considering a bid for the Tote after the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced three weeks ago that he wants to introduce private-sector involvement to the 70-year-old pool-betting organisation.

Guy Hands, Nomura's 540 million-a-year British deal-maker, has asked his 70-strong team of accountants, lawyers and finance experts to run the Tote's statistics through its computers with a view to bidding should the business be put up for sale.

The Japanese bank is likely to face stiff opposition. National Lottery operator Camelot has signalled that it

would be interested in buying the Tote, which could fetch more than £200 million.

A bid for the Tote — which is officially the Horserace Totalisator Board and has a monopoly on pool betting at all 59 UK racecourses as well as a small chain of shops — would be one of many controversial moves for Nomura.

The Tokyo-based bank already owns one in 10 British pubs and has had a substantial interest in betting since buying the William Hill chain last autumn. This week it spent £1 billion taking over Thorn, Britain's biggest television rental group.

The future of the Tote has been in the balance for 10 years. The prospect of privatisation first loomed in 1988 but those plans were shelved in the face of opposition from

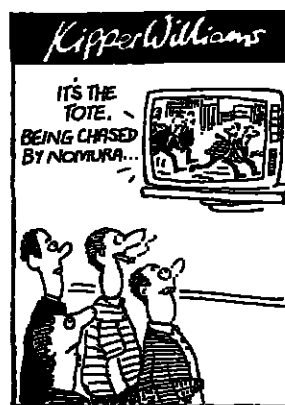
the horseracing fraternity. Only three months before Mr Brown's announcement, the Government denied it had any plans for a sell-off.

Even now, the Home Office insists that Mr Brown has asked only for a review of possible private-sector involvement. The Chancellor will face opposition to any privatisation from Parliament's all-party racing committee.

But a Home Office spokeswoman said yesterday that talks between the Tote, the Treasury and the Home Office were proceeding, and that a review group was likely to be set up within a month.

She added that companies interested in the Tote "are welcome to register their interest with the Home Office".

The Government does not



own the Tote. It is officially "a body corporate with perpetual succession", and only the Tote's board can change its structure.

The eight-strong board is undergoing an upheaval, however. Three new government-appointed members will join in August.

Last year, the Tote made a £12 million profit and returned £8 million to racing. Its latest profits will be reported by new chairman Peter Jones on July 14.

Mr Hands targets mature businesses with reliable cash income streams and the Tote is an obvious candidate for his attention.

Punters stake £350 million a year on the Tote. Mr Hands usually recoups purchase costs by "securitising" the business's income — that is, selling bonds with a guaranteed, specific return. He then invests to increase efficiency value and seeks to sell on the business thereafter.

Sale of the Tote would be the culmination of wide-ranging changes in the horserace betting industry.

Ladbroke, Britain's largest bookmaker, has launched a bid for the third-largest, Coral. It is unclear whether the deal will gain the approval of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC's report was due on July 7, but consumer affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said yesterday that due to the number of submissions received he had agreed to a request from the competition watchdog for more time and extended the deadline to July 31.

Meanwhile, Mr Hands is knocking William Hill into shape for a flotation which could raise £1 billion, even though he paid only £700 million only eight months ago.

Notebook

US goes cold on Goldilocks image



Alex Brummer

ARE the first flaws in America's Goldilocks economy starting to appear? The evidence is admittedly flimsy but the combination of the Asia crisis, which is getting no better, and signs of overheating in the US financial sector is beginning to

start to be promised when he took over from Lord Weinstock, he has delivered on one of his central promises — extracting GEC from the joint ventures it put together in 1989-90, partly as a defence against takeover.

The flotation of GEC-Alsthom, where the GEC prefix has been dropped, is a significant achievement, although it is worth remembering that if Lord Weinstock had not had the foresight to stitch together a Franco-British power group which could challenge German, Swiss and US rivals in international markets then the value inside Alsthom might not have been created.

Similarly, Lord Simpson has taken GEC out of a disadvantageous deal with Siemens in telecommunications by buying back the German share for £610 million. However, GPT-Marconi is a minor note in a telecoms market in which the deals are counted in the tens of billions, although the private phone networks in which its specialises are a useful business.

The question which all this hyperactivity poses is what Lord Simpson intends to do with the cash pile he is building, to replace the one he inherited from Lord Weinstock.

Clever things clearly are going on in the trans-European defence industry as signalled by GEC's alliance with Alenia of Italy (ironically, an other joint venture). But this deal and the takeover of the Texas battlefield software concern Traco will have made little inroad into a cash pile which has been enhanced by Alsthom and the company's £4 billion revolving credit facility arranged earlier in the year.

There is still speculation (largely from one quarter) that the dream ticket of a GEC/British Aerospace merger is still on. Moreover, depending on anti-trust rulings in the US, GEC may be readying itself for a deal with Lockheed. But such defence link-ups might be regarded as a step backwards for a group which seeks to focus more closely on expansion in electronics and telecoms rather than a shrinking defence industry.

History shows that Lord Simpson has been a far better deal-maker than strategic thinker. Now he needs to demonstrate what another George — former US President Bush — memorably called the "vision thing".

Ambitious VW starts Volvo merger talks

Nicholas Bunnister and David Gow

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's largest car manufacturer, is furthering its ambitions to rival the largest American car companies and outpace the faltering Japanese by entering talks to take over or merge with Volvo.

Volvo of Sweden disclosed yesterday that its chief executive, Leif Johansson, on Friday met Ferdinand Piech, his VW counterpart who plans to turn the aggressively expanding German group into the world's third-largest vehicle manufacturer, with a presence in every market from luxury cars to heavy trucks.

Industry insiders believe the meeting — at the Swedish company's Gothenburg headquarters — could only have been to discuss a merger or takeover. Analysts pinpointed Volvo's heavy trucks business, ranked second in the world, behind Mercedes, as Mr Piech's specific target. Volvo cars, which compete with Audi, VW's upmarket division, have less than 2 per cent of the European market, compared with VW's 17.5 per cent.

Mr Piech has already snapped up the Rolls-Royce and Bentley car business in a £470 million deal to be completed later this month. He has also bought the troubled Lamborghini sports-car firm and tried but failed to acquire Bugatti. By acquiring Cosworth as part of its Rolls-Royce deal, he is taking the German company into Formula One motor racing.

VW, which produced 4.3 million vehicles last year, plans to make 6 million by the year 2000 after



Bumper to bumper... German and Swedish motor company chiefs meet in furtherance of VW's global ambitions

PHOTOGRAPH: AXEL SEIDERMAN

increasing its range to 50 models. Last month, Mr Piech signalled his intention to expand in the commercial vehicle market, where VW produces mainly vans. It has previously sought deals with Sweden's other truck-maker, Scania, and France's Renault, the world's fourth-largest truck builder.

"A company has to offer a comprehensive model

range in order to be successful in world markets in the long term," he told shareholders. Of the present 18 manufacturers, only five to 10 would survive into the next century, he claimed, pointing to the planned merger between Germany's Daimler-Benz and US carmaker Chrysler.

VW's determination to acquire a big truck-maker is driven by the threat to its

mass-market car business posed by gross over-capacity in world, particularly European, car markets.

A Volvo spokesman downplayed the merger reports, saying his group's policy was to remain independent, with co-operation deals with other manufacturers. But he accepted that Volvo could not prevent a hostile bid from VW, which also makes

buses, marine and aero engines and construction equipment. It is valued at £8.25 billion, but analysts said VW would have to pay a substantial premium.

The Swedish company's attempt to merge with Renault in 1993 collapsed at the hands of a shareholder revolt, leading to the departure of its long-standing chairman and chief executive Pehr Gyl-

lenhammar. Since then, Volvo has sold peripheral businesses to focus on automotive operations, including joint ventures and supply deals with Mitsubishi, Renault, UK sports-car firm TWR — and VW.

Most of Volvo's trucks are in the 15- to 40-tonne range. Last year, it sold 88,980 of them worldwide, mainly to western Europe and North America.

Brands that built German car giant



1965
Based in Ingolstadt, Bavaria, Audi is VW's top of the range marque and renowned for its use of aluminium engines. It sold 546,436 cars world-wide in 1997, including the new A6, costing up to £32,000, alongside the A8 and A4. Now preparing to enter Formula 1 racing via its £120 million purchase last month of Britain's Cosworth engines, and yesterday's purchase of Norfolk-based Tom's, specialist maker of racing-car bodies and chassis.



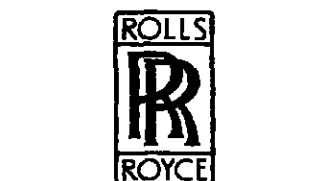
1986
With its base in Barcelona, Seat originally produced a version of Fiat's 600 series for the mass market in Spain during General Franco's regime. The Italians later sold their 30-year-old minority stake to INI, the Spanish state holding company. VW took control of Seat, Spain's largest car manufacturer, in 1986 for \$560 million (£343.5 million). By 1990 Seat was making 400,000 vehicles a year, including 130,000 VWs. It recorded its highest-ever sales last year.



1991
Founded by two bicycle-makers more than 100 years ago, Skoda made its first car — the Vokturne — in 1905, and later made Hispano-Suizas, rivals to Rolls-Royce, under licence. In 1991, the Czech government allowed VW to take control of Skoda, by then the butt of many jokes. Last year it overtook Fiat as central Europe's best-selling car and made £161 million (£21 million) profit as new models replaced the cheap, centrally-planned range.



1998
The luxury sports-car manufacturer was founded in 1933 by agricultural machinery tycoon Ferruccio Lamborghini in order to challenge Ferrari, which had laughed off his complaints about poor service. The company, which produces about 600 cars a year at its plant in Bologna, Italy, has in turn turned into criticism about poor quality, despite charging more than £150,000 for its Diablo model. The manufacturer was acquired by Audi last month for £30 million.



1998
Founded in 1906 by chairman Henry Royce and chief engineer Charles Rolls, six out of 10 cars made are still on the road. Sold to Vickers after its parent collapsed under the weight of development costs for the RB211 aero-engine, Vickers sold it for more than £5 million in an auction won by BMW, which was outbid by VW, which wanted to extend into the luxury market. Its £470 million offer, approved by shareholders last month, is due to be completed this month.

Simpson vision

WHEN Lord Simpson unveils 1997-98 financial results of GEC — or should we say Marconi — today he may feel he deserves the luxury of a small bow. Although he has never quite managed to achieve the flying

Lender misled inquiry into home-income plan fiasco

Liz Stuart

WEST Bromwich Building Society has admitted misleading a Treasury select committee hearing into the home-income plan selling scandal that left 7,000 pensioners with crippling debts.

The disclosure comes a week before the closing speeches of a High Court hearing into whether the society is guilty of mis-selling home-income plans (HIPs) to 250 of its elderly mortgage borrowers. If it loses it may be liable for more than £5 million in compensation.

John Baker, West Bromwich chairman, has admitted in the High Court that the society's former chief executive, Glenn Elliot, gave the Treasury select committee false information during a hearing in March 1995. Mr Elliot wrongly said that expert ad-

vice had been taken from two sources on the housing market, the collapse of which was the prime cause of the HIPs disaster. Mr Baker also admitted that he knew at the time that Mr Elliot's answers were wrong.

The plans, sold by independent financial advisers in the eighties, enabled homeowners to release up to 50 per cent of the equity locked in their homes, which they subsequently invested. But many were threatened with repossession and mounting debts when interest rates rose, and the stock market and property prices collapsed.

West Bromwich has consistently denied any responsibility for the losses suffered by borrowers who took out a HIP as a repayment vehicle from the society's independent financial adviser, Fisher Prew Smith, which is now defunct.

Grid chiefs' £1m options BBC allies with Bill Gates

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

DIRECTORS at National Grid, one of the utility companies which sparked the fat cat executive pay row, were revealed yesterday to have awarded themselves more than £1 million in share options on top of pay increases up to double the rise in average earnings since Labour came to power.

The Prime Minister, facing his first real test on boardroom greed since taking office, responded to the renewed outrage when he told the Commons yesterday that he shared the public's concern about the extent of bo-

nuses awarded to directors of another utility — Yorkshire Water.

Mr Blair told MPs that it was important that "the interests of the consumer and the public genuinely come first".

At National Grid, the monopoly electricity transmission business, the highest-paid director was granted more than £33,000 cut-price share options last year, while a performance-related bonus for 1997-98 would reap a profit of £254,000 at today's price of 404p.

David Jones, group chief executive, has also been awarded a performance-related bonus for 1997-98 of £88,000 on top of his basic pay of £259,000.

Chairman David Jeffries already holds 418,580 cut-price

shares which, if sold, would realise a profit of more than £1.4 million.

Three other directors awarded themselves substantial pay rises in addition to bonuses totalling £157,000 and significant share options.

Stephen Cox, appointed a director in August last year, was paid £219,000 with a £44,000 performance bonus and awarded share options worth at least £218,000.

Wob Gerretsen took a salary of £227,000 including a performance bonus of £38,000 and received share options worth at least £218,000.

Roger Urwin's salary package increased to £264,000 from £246,000, including bonus, plus £257,000 in share options.

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

THE BBC yesterday hooked up with Bill Gates's Microsoft Corporation and announced a deal with Rupert Murdoch in moves that will set it at the heart of the digital television revolution which promises to bring viewers up to 300 channels and archaic access to the Internet.

The broadcaster is determined that its leading position in terrestrial TV is maintained in the new world of multi-channel pay television.

Under the deal with Microsoft, the BBC has agreed to co-operate on trials of a new sys-

tem of "enhanced-TV". It will display an icon on the screen which, if selected, will give viewers access to web-based archive information and specially produced material which adds detail to the programmes they are watching.

The deal brings the corporation into a partnership which already involves British Telecom and Pace Microtechnology, the company building set-top boxes to decode digital signals for both BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by Mr Murdoch, and British Digital Broadcasting, the rival digital platform.

It underlines the corporation's determination to work with all of the main players in the digital TV marketplace

even if, like Mr Murdoch, they have been among the BBC's sternest critics.

Meanwhile, the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, has cemented its relationship with Rupert Murdoch's Sky by reaching agreement on satellite carriage of the corporation's pay-TV channels.

According to yesterday's announcement, Sky's 200-channel digital service will carry six services from UKTV, the BBC/Flextech joint venture: Gold, Arena, Horizon, Sky1, a new music entertainment channel and an extra version of UK Gold, called UK Gold2.

The BBC's free services will be carried on Sky under an earlier agreement.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.61	Germany 2.9285	Malaysia 5.99	Singapore 2.74
Austria 20.82	Greece 493.36	Malta 0.8371	South Africa 8.85
Belgium 20.45	Hong Kong 12.55	Netherlands 3.2879	Spain 247.38
Canada 2.2885	India 70.70	New Zealand 3.10	Sweden 13.04
Cyprus 0.8292	Ireland 1.547	Norway 12.45	Switzerland 1.24
Denmark 11.24	Israel 6.12	Portugal 206.21	Turkey 425.640
Finland 6.00	Italy 2.825	Saudi Arabia 6.15	USA 1.8213
France 6.816			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding ropes, wheat and molasses)

مكتبة الامم

In the World Cup sports section



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Henman cruises to showdown with Sampras 20

The Guardian Sport

Thursday July 2 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

France 98

Hoddle puts blame on the referee

David Lacey in La Baule at the public inquest on England's fined and suspended midfielder

AMONG life's minor irritations are jobs half done and stories only half told. England flew home yesterday saddened by the manner of their latest premature exit from a World Cup but also annoyed that they had not given themselves an opportunity to do better.

Having reached a point where they looked capable of outscoring Argentina in an open game, England let their guard slip in the last minute of the first half, lost David Beckham to a moment of crass retaliation in the opening minute of the second, became forced into a stubborn rear-guard action and ended up being eliminated on penalties for a third major tournament in the Nineties.

"It was a mistake, a silly mistake," the England coach Glenn Hoddle said of Beckham's moment of petulance yesterday. "but Dennis Bergkamp did something more violent [treading on Sinisa Mihajlovic, before Holland defeated

Yugoslavia with a goal in stoppage time] and the referee didn't see it, or he chose not to see it. Young David's done something that wasn't violent conduct. For me, it shouldn't have been a red card." As it is, Beckham has also been fined \$2,000 and banned from the first two qualifiers for the 2000 European Championship.

Remembering how, shortly before the World Cup, the England coach defended Alan Shearer against a charge of misconduct for allegedly kicking Leicester's Neil Lennon in the face and despite apparently damning television evidence, it is difficult to know exactly where Hoddle stands on crime and punishment in football.

He did not help his case by accusing Kim Nielsen, the Danish official, of inconsistency. "Why does David Seaman get booked for bringing down Simeone for the first penalty?" Hoddle complained, "when their defender [Roberto Ayala] gets nothing for bringing down Michael Owen for the second? As he was the last defender it could have been a red card."

Since the television replays suggested Ayala had not made contact with Owen, the Argentinian's dismissal would have been echoes of the sending-off of Antonio Rattin, their 1996 World Cup captain, in the quarter-final against England. But for that decision Alf Ramsey's team might have gone out there and then.

The fact that Owen scored one of the best goals ever seen in a World Cup to give England an early 2-1 lead merely compounded the frustration of Hoddle and his players. But for Beckham's red card England might well have been packing their bags for a quarter-final against Holland in Marseille on Saturday instead of a subdued return home.

At least that is one hypothesis. Alternatively, the slickly worked free-kick which enabled Javier Zanetti to make it 2-2 at the end of the first half might well have given Argentina the momentum to dominate the second. As it was they appeared equally stunned by England's reduction to 10 men.

Either way the 1998 tournament was cheated of what looked like becoming its best encounter so far by the gremlin in Beckham's make-up which from time to time persuades him to act like a baby who keeps throwing its rattle away. Having been flattened from behind by Diego Simeone's crude challenge the Manchester United player, still lying face down, felt it necessary to catch Simeone with a flailing foot as the Argentinian stumbled over him. "David couldn't talk in the dressing room afterwards," said Hoddle. "He went to a couple of staff and said 'sorry'. It's his reaction which concerns me now. He's 23 and a major talent. He can turn this into a positive, and perhaps iron out a few of his previous problems."

Nielsen, who was standing over Beckham, would have been in trouble with the referees' committee had he not produced the red card, and Hoddle's defence of his player sounded somewhat lame.

Hoddle was on more solid ground over the handball by Jose Chamot in extra-time which went unobserved by the officials. And as Arsene Wenger told him afterwards, the header from Sol Campbell, from Darren Anderton's corner, which Nielsen disallowed in the 81st minute because Alan Shearer had raised an elbow making a challenge would have been permitted in England.

Hoddle will always believe his team would have won with a full side, and was scornful about Argentina's response to finding themselves up against 10 men. "If we'd performed like that, leaving three at the back, becoming very cautious and just getting through on penalties then we'd have got a bit of stick," he said. Certainly the decision of Daniel Passarella to take off Gabriel Batistuta, his most likely match-winner, after 68 minutes was odd.

But as Cesar Luis Menotti, the chain-smoker who led Argentina to success as hosts in the 1978 World Cup, pointed out, a coach may be 60 per cent responsible for a team's performance in the build-up to a match but once the game has begun he is less than 10 per cent accountable for what happens on the field.

Critics of Hoddle's reluctance to introduce Owen either at the start of the game against Romania or immediately after England had fallen behind at the beginning of the second half might remember this. That match, and the

chance to win Group G and avoid Argentina in the second round, was lost because of two elementary defensive errors and Hoddle believes that England's game still needs to purge itself of these lapses in concentration. "There is an empty feeling inside," Hoddle admitted. "But I had an encouraging phone call from the Prime

Minister. He said everyone back home was very proud of how we conducted ourselves. That gives you a bit of a lift." It is more likely, however, that anyone who cared was still cursing the day Beckham was born.

There has been much discussion about who should have taken England's kicks in the shoot-out but in the absence of Beckham, Paul Scholes and Anderton, Hoddle's hand was pretty thin. Half of the remaining players did not fancy it, and at least David Batty volunteered despite not having taken a penalty before.

In the event North Batty might have done better. And so, for England, another World Cup has gone by.



England's coming home... David Beckham and Darren Anderton follow Gary Neville down the steps of their plane at Heathrow yesterday MARTIN ARPLES

Learning curve

The backdoor of England's 2002 failure

David Beckham
Age 23
Goal 3
Goals
The Manchester United player, still lying face down, felt it necessary to catch Simeone with a flailing foot as the Argentinian stumbled over him. "David couldn't talk in the dressing room afterwards," said Hoddle. "He went to a couple of staff and said 'sorry'. It's his reaction which concerns me now. He's 23 and a major talent. He can turn this into a positive, and perhaps iron out a few of his previous problems."

Nielsen, who was standing over Beckham, would have been in trouble with the referees' committee had he not produced the red card, and Hoddle's defence of his player sounded somewhat lame.

Hoddle was on more solid ground over the handball by Jose Chamot in extra-time which went unobserved by the officials. And as Arsene Wenger told him afterwards, the header from Sol Campbell, from Darren Anderton's corner, which Nielsen disallowed in the 81st minute because Alan Shearer had raised an elbow making a challenge would have been permitted in England.

Hoddle will always believe his team would have won with a full side, and was scornful about Argentina's response to finding themselves up against 10 men. "If we'd performed like that, leaving three at the back, becoming very cautious and just getting through on penalties then we'd have got a bit of stick," he said. Certainly the decision of Daniel Passarella to take off Gabriel Batistuta, his most likely match-winner, after 68 minutes was odd.



But as Cesar Luis Menotti, the chain-smoker who led Argentina to success as hosts in the 1978 World Cup, pointed out, a coach may be 60 per cent responsible for a team's performance in the build-up to a match but once the game has begun he is less than 10 per cent accountable for what happens on the field.



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Sport.
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Wimbledon 98

Time for Tiger Tim to earn stripes

Stephen Bierley says the Briton looks mature on the eve of his biggest match

MR SAMPRAS regrets, but he will not be practising with Tim Henman today.

The solid friendship that has developed between the two No. 1s — Henman by way of Britain, Pete Sampras the world — has seen them knocking out on countless courts over the past year in Europe, the United States and Australia, including those of Wimbledon's Aorangi Park this week.

Tomorrow, and it still requires a little pinch to make double sure it is true, Sampras and Henman meet in the semi-finals. Both won in straight sets yesterday, Henman defeating a very less than fit Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 and Sampras beating Australia's Mark Philippoussis 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The pressure will be intense on the Englishman, as the nation's last semi-finalist was Roger Taylor in 1973 — before Henman was born — and Sampras has lost only one in five semi-finals here.

But in these early days of post-World Cup trauma Henman's success could not be more timely, though he will only start to assume the St Etienne crisis if he goes on to take Sunday's final against either the Dutchman Richard Krajicek, the champion two years ago, or Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, twice a runner-up.

"It will be a straightforward grass-court match and there will not be any surprises," said Sampras, a gentle and humorous aside by the four-times champion that yesterday fell on stony ground.

There was a not a lot of national whimsy about on a black-bordered day, which suited Henman. Rarely can he have played with such controlled and unbending concentration.

"Tim is a lot more powerful and has an all-round great game. There are not many players who have that," said Sampras, whose two victories over the Briton, in Tokyo four years ago and in the second round here in 1995, will count for nothing tomorrow.

"I know Pete is the best grass-court player in the

world and he has come effortlessly through his five matches so far, but I feel understandably confident — and I'm serving better than at any other time," said Henman after yesterday's win.

Henman's two previous quarter-finals furnished him well this time. "When I broke Petr in the second game I realised it was the first time I had managed to do that in a quarter-final here," he said. "It was a good feeling."

Henman lost in the last eight to the American Todd Martin in 1996, a year that spawned Henmania and raised the profile of British tennis many notches. Last year, however, in a disappointingly anaemic and nerve-ridden second quarter-final, he was convincingly beaten by the now retired Michael Stich of Germany.

There were few nerves visible yesterday. As soon as this year's draw was made, Henman declared himself confident of reaching the last four, although his form of the first week did not imbue his many fans with bucketloads of certainty.

Korda had fallen near the end of his fourth-round match on Monday and his left ankle was still troubling him, noticeably when he needed to change direction quickly. "I could not move the way I wanted to," he said, and he was affronted when it was suggested he had perhaps not been trying his hardest.

There have been more than a few times in the past when the Australian champion has not given of his best. Any canibal served up with Korda on his plate would be hard pushed to find much meat and his wiry body has had its share of injuries and illness.

He clearly had a compulsive urge to touch and flex his ankle during the first set, like someone pushing a finger against a newly crowned tooth to see if it would break. But Henman had to shut out any thoughts that Korda might be struggling and concentrate on his own strengths. This he managed near-flawlessly, serving and volleying with relentless precision.

Frank Keating, page 16



Focused approach... Tim Henman again showed few signs of nerves in his quarter-final victory. PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX LIVESLEY

The jazz man who loved a little swing



Frank Keating

HIS beloved Lord's was not actually the best place to meet up with Benny Green when he was in the mood to chew the cud about cricket. The good fellow would barely have got into his stride with a yarn — as original as it was apt as it was true — about, say, Walter Robins, Jim Sims or Patsy Hendren when one of his many mates from one of his many other worlds would interrupt and, at a diverting stroke, trigger off an anecdote equally as fluent and compelling about George Bernard Shaw, Conan Doyle, Bix Beiderbecke, Percy Jeeves, P G Wodehouse, P G Fender, Max Miller or Ronnie Scott.

The obituaries which marked Benny's death, last Wednesday at 70, were generous and fulsome all right, but so wide was his reading, so catholic his tastes and all-embracing his enthusiasms that most obituarists seemed dazed, settling on just one or two of his specialities to the detriment of all the others. As an all-rounder he was a true great, a cockney's answer to the pastoral John Arlott.

Not the least of these was cricket, where his editing of four doorstop volumes of the Wisden Anthology, an occasional publication last printed in 1982, was a labour of devotion and diligence.

In 1988 he published A History of Cricket at the start of that decade he had published P G Wodehouse: A Literary Biography. In between there was A History of the British Comic Postcard. That displayed the versatility of the self-educated man derided by teachers at Marylebone Grammar School as "only fit to be a barrow-boy".

One of the most touching memoirs of Benny last week was written by his friend, the playwright Jack Rosenthal (another always pleased to allude to sport as one of life's happy diversions).

"Compared to Benny," he wrote, "Scheherazade hardly opened her mouth. So many stories, all delivered in that distinctive voice that seemed to be wisely nodding its head or winking or raising one eyebrow."

"At the end of the meal Toni [Benny's wife] might ask, 'Tea or coffee?', to which the response was conceivably: 'Talking of coffee, when Lorenz Hart was working on

the lyric of Blue Moon, he had a call from Jonny Mercer, who, as everyone knows, was

He was the same at sport: "You had to go to the Derby yesterday, did you? Did I ever tell you of the time the Aga Khan, the old one that is, met Prince Monolulu at Tottenham Corner station, and the prince said: 'I can't find you something to make your horse run faster, but I can make the other nine run slower'."

In the 1960s we worked together on two or three films and various projects in which all the fun was in the researching for the London ITV companies, Rediffusion and Thames. To walk around his London with him was more than a further education, especially, for me, when it took in the terraces at Highbury or the old Tavern at Lord's.

Also that decade ago, Benny edited the monumental Lord's Companion for the ground's 200th jubilee. He dedicated the book to Denis Compton and last year, when I heard he was more ill, I knew he would feel badly about Denis's death on St George's Day. He always

In one of his brilliant bits of journalism Benny was asked to contribute his own obituary

said that "Compton stood in my mind for my own carefree adolescence; as long as Denis endured, so did my own youth".

GREEN had been taken by his father (who also played the sax) to Highbury and Arsenal before the war where he had worshipped Compton's "unforgettable sorcery on the left wing" but he had first stolen into Lord's with two truanting schoolfriends tucking on — he never forgot the precise morning — June 17, 1938. They were confronted with a match between (of all sides) MCC and Cambridge University.

They picked up a discarded scorecard: "Examining the small print, we saw that MCC included an England captain, no less, in A P F Chapman, who disappointed us bitterly by being out for five. Memory also tells me that Jim Smith hit one or two towering hits, and when I came to look up the details half a lifetime later I was almost afraid to look, just in case Jim Smith had done nothing of the sort. But look, here it is in Wisden: Smith c RC Sherriff b J Webster 15".

In one of his brilliant bits of journalism which he scattered to the winds, Benny was asked to contribute his own obituary.

"He died in his 99th year, adamant that he would reach his century," he wrote, "but then mathematics was never his strong point." Most every other subject was.

Stewart on thin line between disappointment and dissent

David Hopps

AS DAVID BECKHAM was vilified across England for his childish act of petulance in the World Cup — "string the little brat up" — one considered contribution to the Guardian website's bulletin board — one disappointed shake of the head from England's cricket captain Alec Stewart at Lord's might seem to have become inconsequential.

Stewart certainly thinks as much, believing that cricket's stress upon chivalrous conduct persistently gets out of proportion.

His frustrated reaction to a dubious dismissal in the second Test attracted some reproof at the time, even if it brought no official cen-

sure from the match referee, but yesterday at Old Trafford he presented it as just one more headshake in what, in England yesterday, had become an ocean of headshakes.

And what exactly did the little brat up to? Wrongly adjudged caught at the wicket by the Australian umpire Darryl Hair, he shook his head and repeatedly stared back at the big screen, awaiting the television replay. He then stood by the entrance to the Lord's pavilion and waited a few seconds longer. The worst anybody could really say was that it was so theatrical that he might have qualified for an Arts Council grant.

"Whenever there is a big TV screen the batsman will

look back to see his dismissal," Stewart said. "The decision has been made but you look back to see how you were out. I continued to look back because I hadn't seen it."

It would have been more honest to say that he looked back to see whether he was

His frustrated reaction to a dubious dismissal in the second Test attracted some reproof at the time

out, but it is unrealistic to expect a batsman, mistakably dismissed, invariably to complete a 120-yard walk without a mild gesture of disappointment. Had Beckham merely shaken his head at the foul that ex-

posed his unstable temperament, the nation might have been celebrating.

"There is definitely a line between disappointment and dissent and you don't want to step over that line," Stewart stressed.

Did he feel that, at Lord's, England had crossed that

England seem guilty by implication: no one thinks too much about the right to remain silent these days.

Stewart, by contrast, bristles combatively. "We are very good at praising people who come second," he said, with one eye on the football. He wants his England side to be competitive, and challenges us to accept that emotions will run high. If you want us to walk off smiling when we are out, you won't get it."

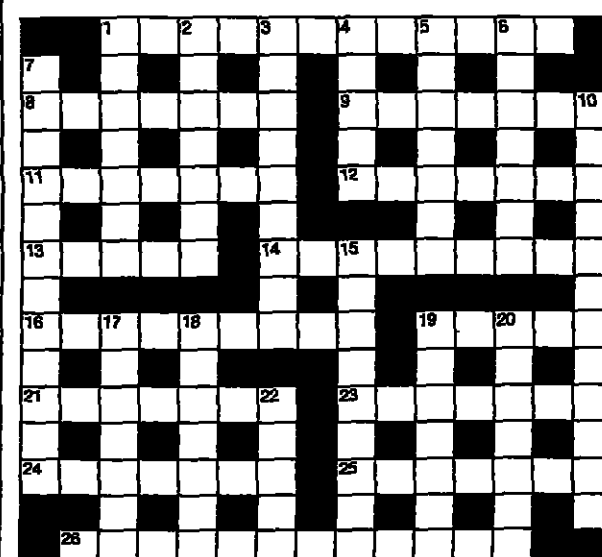
Mark Ramprakash's fine for dissent against umpire Hair was also swiftly dealt with by Stewart. He had been dealt with, he had an excellent disciplinary record for England, and Stewart expected that to continue.

Nevertheless, Ramprakash's brief outburst — he

berated Hair for putting players' livelihoods at risk — sounded like a gifted batsman haunted again by the possibility of personal failure. If so, that really is worth a shake of the head.

Guardian Crossword No 21,316

Set by Chironie

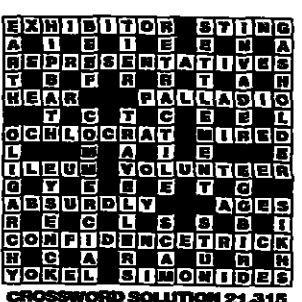


Across

- 1 Abolitionism provoked preparation for war (12)
- 2 Season article in river (7)
- 3 Plant providing much conversation amongst players (7)
- 11 Journalist corners new quarry in final stage on board (7)
- 12 Well versed in Latin translation of wedding (7)
- 13 A river flowed on the island (5)
- 14 Presumption that punice formation hides a retreat (8)
- 15 Critic of French region finds alternative (5)
- 19 Nutrient sovereign found in swamp (5)
- 21 Cloth of gold British film director has (7)
- 23 After hesitation, model is captured by murderer and bound (7)

Down

- 4 Nestier sort of wine (7)
- 25 Vet fell over burrow (7)
- 26 Badger seen eating well on film (8,4)
- 1 Wind makes two of us lose hope, initially (7)
- 2 Intellectual touring a hotel in the Middle East (7)
- 3 Thief made off with diamonds (8)
- 4 Warning for soldiers caught in wrongdoing (5)
- 5 Edward, bearing fit of pique, is beaten (7)
- 6 Address of old abbotment (7)
- 7 Bears entertaining dwarf with our kind of food (5-3-4)
- 10 Artist to allow director to interrupt high wire performer (6,5)
- 15 Charming creature's unswayed by Athenian statesman (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,315

England urged to dig in for victory

Mike Selvey on advice from two former captains as England prepare for the third Test against South Africa starting today

IF ENGLAND are going to get back into this series, one of the most important items they will need is a cure for the virus that appears to afflict itself on to England batting orders causing them to collapse so embarrassingly. They will also need to find the tactics to prevent the recoveries instigated by Jonty Rhodes.

The debacle in the second innings at Lord's, when they plummeted from 222 for three to 233 for nine, was probably immaterial; when South Africa were allowed off the hook in their first innings the game had already gone, and had England got 500 instead of 264 in their second innings they would probably still have lost. But such collapses are in themselves damaging to the longer-term confidence and

morale of the team; every time a couple of wickets tumble, the temptation to fall into here-we-go-again syndrome is hard to resist.

In his newspaper column last Sunday, Mike Atherton remarked on the lack of concentration that can be the catalyst. The collapse in the final Test against West Indies in Antigua last winter, for example, was precipitated by a stupid run-out.

"Mental strength in any given situation is absolutely crucial," he wrote. "During a collapse the dressing-room is sober and subdued, the crowd is frenzied, the fielders are cock-a-hoop, the bowlers seem a yard faster and yet the batsman must block out everything and concentrate only on the ball coming down. And only on that ball, not the next."

One wonders whether the lack of capacity to concentrate over long periods and the availability of soft runs in county cricket are not interlinked. Graham Gooch, a selector now, certainly thinks so.

Last week, during Durham's NatWest game against Norfolk, Gooch spoke of the need for English batsmen to focus more on occupying the crease than going for glory. "Batsmen are used to scoring three-hour hundreds in county cricket," he says, "so when they come into Tests and find that runs are harder to come by and their scoring rate is slower, there can be a tendency to feel they are not playing well. But it happens."

Mark Ramprakash, for example, batted well for an hour and a half in the first innings

at Lord's and made only a dozen runs.

"The phrases 'play your natural game' and 'be positive' are misunderstood. A natural game might involve punishing bad balls but if you do not get any then there shouldn't be cause for panic. As for being positive, this to me does not mean sounding the bugle call but making sure that everything, both in attack and defence, is done with purpose."

Rhodes both at Edgbaston and Lord's exhibited such qualities but, particularly during his century, he was aided and abetted by the inconsistent line explored by the England bowling and the tactics adopted. Rhodes likes to be busy, keeping things ticking over, using the angles on the off side, tucking it away off his hips, driving well and cutting vigorously. He does not like to feel restricted.

Common sense, then, suggests that Alec Stewart

should not be afraid to ask his bowlers to do what Atherton is advocating for the batsmen and concentrate on each delivery at a time, and frustrate Rhodes into error by cutting off his run supply.

The attack Stewart has at his disposal will not be decided upon until this morning, with all 13 squad members retained yesterday. The likelihood is that England will go in with Ashley Giles as a second spinner rather than Ben Hollioake and that Dean Headley will also miss out.

South Africa's opener Adam Bacher was still unable to train yesterday because of a damaged shoulder and is doubtful for the third Test which starts today. His replacement could be the all-rounder Brian McMillan. The pace-bowling pair Allan Donald (stiff back) and Shaun Pollock (strained quadriceps) have been receiving intensive physiotherapy but are certain to start.